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The Four Horsemen Order Sid Vicious:

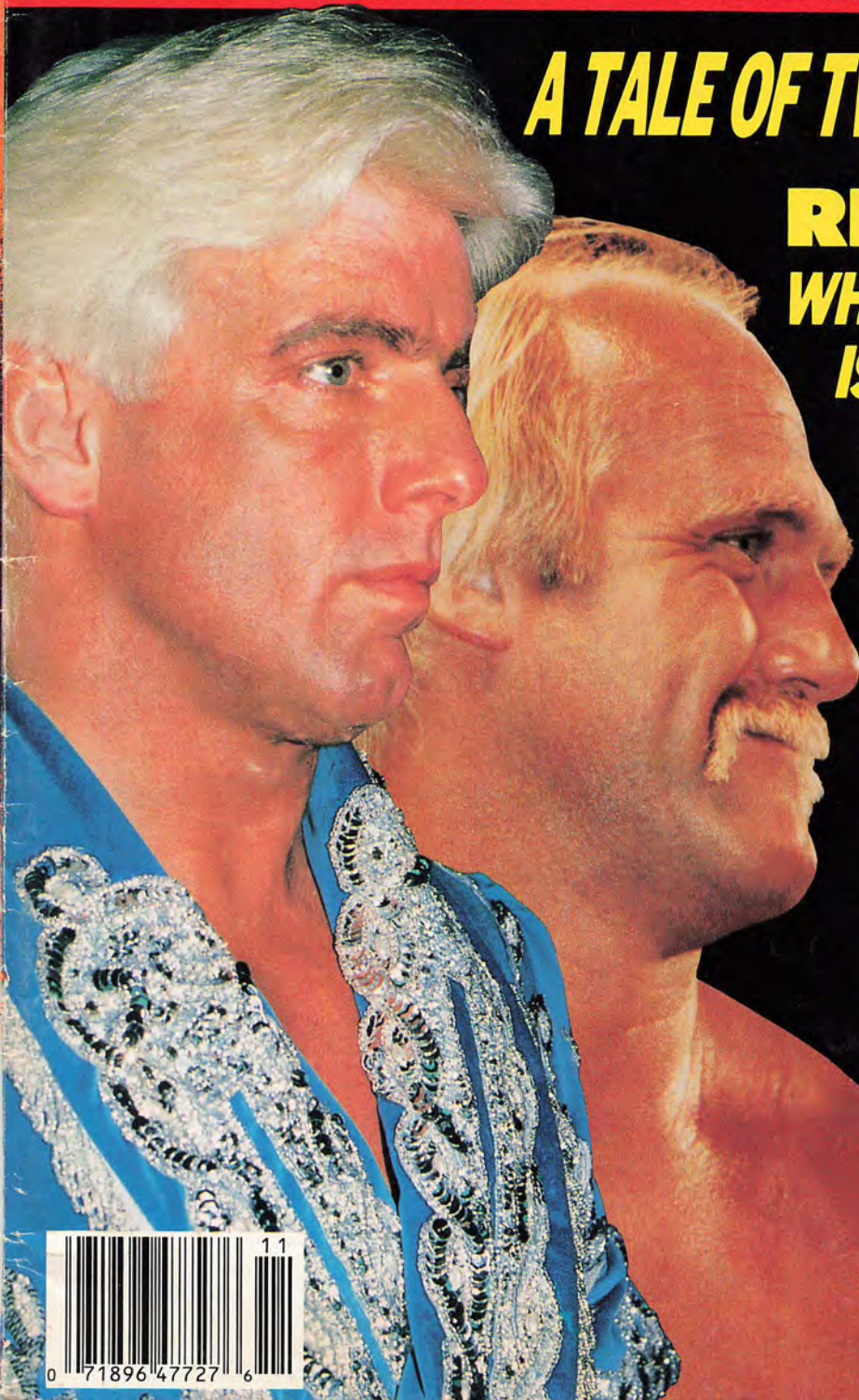
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# Wrestling

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## A TALE OF TWO EX-CHAMPIONS

**RIC FLAIR:  
WHY A SEVENTH TITLE  
IS OUT OF REACH**

**HULK  
HOGAN:  
HAPPIER  
WITHOUT  
THE BELT**

**WHY MR. FUJI IS MURDER  
ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS**

*Jeannie & Toni Adams:*  
**CAN THE USWA STOP  
THESE SAVAGE WILDCATS?**

*SGT. SLAUGHTER:*  
**"MY COLD WAR ISN'T  
OVER YET!"**





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THE MAGAZINE THAT RIPS  
THE LID OFF PRO WRESTLING

INSIDE

# Wrestling

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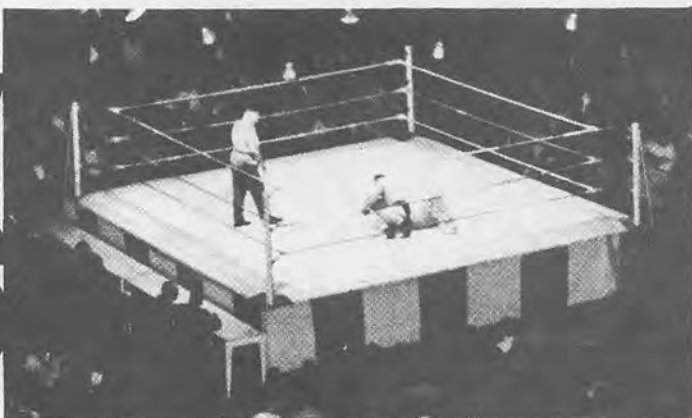
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SEND LETTERS TO:

# SINCERELY YOURS

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## BASH BITS

Some comments on the 1990 Great American Bash:

1. Sting defeats Ric Flair for the NWA World title. This was one of the few times that all the stipulations they put on a match worked the way they were supposed to. The Four Horsemen never did find a way to interfere.

2. Dudes With Attitudes defeat The Four Horsemen. Will we ever get to see El Gigante wrestle?

3. Rick and Scott Steiner defeat The Freebirds. Does anybody remember—or care—that The Freebirds were once NWA World tag team champions?

4. Harley Race defeats Tommy Rich. Simply the best *wrestling* match of the night. These two “washed-up” grapplers still have a lot to offer.

5. How often do we see 10 out of 11 matches end in clean pinfalls?

JAMES HOLLERAN  
Burleson, TX

## DOOM RULES

Ron Simmons and Butch Reed have to be the greatest NWA World tag team champions ever. They easily defeated Rick and Scott Steiner at Capital Combat '90 and in a return match at Clash of the Champions XI. The Rock 'n' Roll Express, Steiners, Southern Boys, and all the rest will never be able to defeat Doom for the belts. They will be champions until they retire!

KENNY STRAUSS  
Acton, MA

You people must have been joking when you wrote about The Midnight Express and Doom in your September



Ron Simmons grapples with Scott Steiner. Readers Kenny Strauss and Rich Mackie believe there isn't a team in the NWA that can take the World tag belts from Doom.

1990 issue (“The Midnight Express—On A Fast Track To Doom!”). Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton beat the most powerful and muscular duo in the sport today? Don't make me laugh!

RICH MACKIE  
Philadelphia

## IT'S THE FANS' FAULT

It really angers me when people attack Vince McMahon and WWF officials for the ridiculous antics that go on in the WWF. Sure, those antics are uncalled for, but remember: They wouldn't happen if not for the fans. They pack every WWF show to see the wrestlers act stupid. McMahon just gives them what they want.

So next time, instead of attacking McMahon for the silliness in the

WWF, direct your anger toward the fans.

MICHAEL DOHERTY  
Corcaigh, Ireland



Vince McMahon is not to blame for the silliness in the WWF. The fans are, writes Michael Doherty.



## AWESOME DUDES

*Inside Wrestling*, you were absolutely correct in your September '90 issue. In your story about Sting and his friends battling The Four Horsemen ("Fighting Fire With Fire: The Awesome Foursome—Committed To Destroying The Horsemen"), you asked the question, "Can the Horsemen survive the assault of this team of superstars?"

The answer, as we have seen so far in the battles between the Horsemen and the Dudes With Attitudes, is a definite NO!

Of course, maybe the group was known as The Awesome Foursome to begin with, but all the NWA fan favorites obviously wanted to get in on the action, so a foursome simply couldn't contain their enthusiasm.

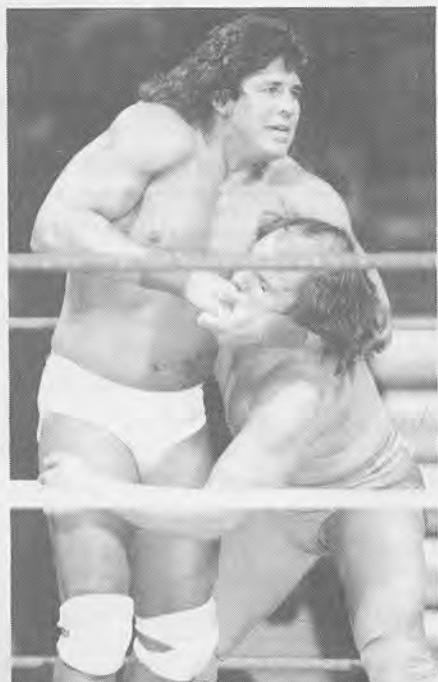
The Dudes may be more than a foursome now, but they're definitely still awesome!

BRAD GARDNER  
Atlanta

## ARRIBA!

I am excited that Tito Santana's been getting I-C title matches against Curt Hennig. Tito, win that belt back!

RANDALL HUNT  
Bakersfield, CA



Tito Santana (against Lanny Poffo) will win the Intercontinental title for a third time, predicts Randall Hunt.



Arn Anderson and Lex Luger represent two diametrically opposed groups, The Four Horsemen and The Dudes With Attitudes. Reader Brad Gardner is convinced the Dudes will win the war between these two organizations.

## THE BRAINY "BRAIN"

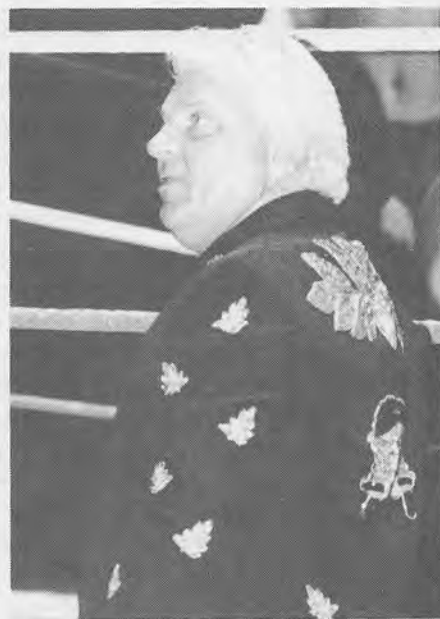
When the ballots are cast for 1990 Manager of the Year, my vote will go to Bobby "The Brain" Heenan. He has done a remarkable job of rebuilding his stable after a series of setbacks that would have driven others out of the sport.

He saw the WWF World tag team title slip from his grasp on two separate occasions, losing the services of Arn Anderson, Tully Blanchard, and Andre the Giant in the process. Another Heenan charge, Rick Rude, was rapidly fading from title contention.

Heenan regrouped and has come back stronger than ever.

Andre was replaced by the much younger and equally powerful Barbarian. Heenan then scored a major coup by signing Curt Hennig on the eve of Hennig's Intercontinental title victory. He has Rude dedicated to a strict training regimen designed to bring "Ravishing" Rick the World title.

These actions have enabled Heenan to maintain his position as the most



In 1990, Bobby Heenan has proven that he deserves to be called "The Brain," in reader Jim Bradley's opinion.

influential manager in the WWF. They also serve as further proof that he deserves to be called "The Brain."

JIM BRADLEY  
Jackson, NJ

(Continued on page 46)



# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu  
Saks

Editor-in-Chief

I'm a little embarrassed to admit this, but until we began publishing Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly a year ago, I didn't follow some of the smaller promotions as closely as I should have.

If you've seen PWI Weekly, you know that its many correspondents report not only on the WWF, NWA, AWA, and USWA cards, but also on many of the cards in federations a lot of fans probably have never heard of.

It would be wrong to call these federations the "minor leagues" of professional wrestling. There is nothing "minor" about being a pro athlete in any sport. But, like minor-league baseball, these smaller federations are extremely important, as they provide a training ground for many of the stars that will eventually appear in the "big time." You'll never see The Ultimate Warrior or Sting on these cards, but there certainly is a chance that you can spot a future Ultimate Warrior or a future Sting. It's up to you to be the talent scout.

One more thing about the smaller federations. They feature some of the most unusual names you'll ever see. Names that make you forget just how silly Junkyard Dog, Dirty White Boy, and The Mongolian Stomper sounded before they became regular parts of our wrestling vernacular. Just for fun, I have put together a list of some of my favorites.

Here goes: Curly Moe, B.A., Izzy Slapowitz, Dr. Zhivago, Mr. Everything, Dog of War, Agent Orange, Shotgun Gauge, The Inhuman, The Radd Man, Warpig, Atom Smash, Mister Bojangles, Morgus, Death Row 3260, G.I. Bro, Blue Demon Jr. (surely, there must have been a Blue Demon Sr.), Cowabunga, Frogman LeBlanc, The Whip, KKK & Tornado Negro II (now that's an odd couple!), Al the Sledgehammer, and Boy Gone Bad.

Don't laugh. I'd bet Mr. and Mrs. Warpig are every bit as proud of their son as Mr. and Mrs. Hogan are.



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# 'TOP SECRET

## Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **David  
Rosenbaum**

*People make fun of him because he talks and acts a little different. They say he has no wrestling skills. Do you know what I say to that? I say at least he gets the job done. Besides, he's exciting to see and to hear.*

—Betty Ritter of Moatsville, West Virginia

**P**OOOR BETTY RITTER of Moatsville, West Virginia. She just doesn't know better.

She spent her Fourth of July, 1990, putting pen to paper in protest of a story I wrote in the August 1990 issue of *Inside Wrestling*. The story was headlined, "Ultimate Warrior Beware: You're Not The Second Coming Of Hulk Hogan!" and Ritter called it "a complete and ultimate joke!"

But in stating her case, Ritter couldn't have done a better job of supporting *Inside Wrestling's* point of view. She claimed the Warrior isn't trying to imitate Hogan. Well, take her quote and see if it applies to any other wrestler.

The "Hulkster" himself, perhaps?

*Talks and acts different . . . no wrestling skills . . . gets the job done . . . exciting to see and to hear.*

Exactly. Although the Warrior just doesn't get the job done quite as well.

Still, in the interest of fairness, here are some extended excerpts from Ritter's diatribe.

See you on page 50.

*I got the distinct impression that you (and every other wrestling editor and writer) thinks of Hulk Hogan as some type of god. Well, I have a news flash for you, buddy: He's not a god. He's as human as everyone else.*

*Maybe Hogan is a legend, but*  
(Continued on page 50)

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**M**Y BRAIN IS swimming with all kinds of thoughts about what's going on in wrestling today, so much so that I don't think I can concentrate long enough on one topic to fill this entire column. Or maybe I can't concentrate because of the flu I'm trying to fight off. In any event, here's a bits-and-pieces group of observations and thoughts about recent events in the mat world:

- I can't get used to calling Hawk and Animal "The Legion Of Doom." As far as I'm concerned, they'll always be The Road Warriors. It's kind of like George Harrison. Call him a Traveling Wilbury if you like, but he'll always be a Beatle as far as I'm concerned.

- Speaking of Hawk and Animal: I know that Vince McMahon has to always change something about the wrestlers who enter his federation, and a lot of times those changes seem totally arbitrary, but *orange* shoulder pads with silver spikes? *Orange*? It looks like the Warriors—er, the Legion is coming to the ring wearing a couple of life jackets. Or that they should be on the highway somewhere stacking traffic cones. Hardly threatening, and certainly a loss in the intimidation department for Hawk and Animal.

- For one indication of the state of professional wrestling today, just take a look at the "Roll Call Of Champions" on page 65 and count the number of titles listed. Then compare that with a "Roll Call" from a few years ago. I did, using last month's issue and the May 1987 issue as references. Titles back then: 65; titles today: 48. That's a decrease of 17, or just over 26 percent. Fewer titles means fewer champions means fewer prizes to contend for means less excitement in the sport as a whole. Too bad.

- Does anybody care about the AWA Team Challenge Series anymore?

- Lex Luger is an awesome wrestler, and his career has been sidetracked by his long-running campaign against Ric Flair. I'd like to see the "Total Package" remember that he is in fact the U.S. champion and return to a regular series of defenses of that belt. In Luger's quest for the World title, the U.S. belt has all but been forgotten. It's an important title. Luger should remember that.

- Wrestling is jam-packed with good tag teams, particularly in the NWA. While the WWF has The Legion of Doom, The Hart Foundation, and The Rockers, and the AWA has The Destruction Crew, the NWA has no less than six top-notch combinations: Doom, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, The Midnight Express, The Southern Boys, Rick & Scott Steiner, and Brian Pillman & Tom Zenk. Where is the Crockett Cup tournament when you need it?

- The Ultimate Warrior is an exciting wrestler, but he

## ON THE ROAD

with  
**CRAIG PETERS**

has not been an exciting WWF World champion. I think we might be seeing an example of a man who simply can't rise to the occasion. Not that he isn't trying: A recent attempt by the Warrior to tone down his imposing image and be friendlier to small children shows that his heart is in the right place. It's just that for all the howling and hype and muscle and mayhem, I still don't see a *wrestler* beneath the face paint.

- My prayers for a full and speedy recovery go out to Brutus Beefcake.

While I certainly didn't expect the WWF to broadcast on its television programs all the grisly details of Beefcake's accident, I would have thought that they would say more than they did—and at least provide an address where fans can write to offer their support. They may yet, but the accident didn't happen in the ring, so don't hold your breath.



*Brutus Beefcake*

Meanwhile, if you want to write to Beefcake, do so in care of this magazine and we'll see that your correspondence is forwarded.

- Good wrestlers whose careers are backsliding horribly, or at least going nowhere: Dusty Rhodes, Randy Savage, Ted DiBiase, Terry Taylor, Mike Rotundo, Larry Zbyszko, Rick Martel, Mike Enos and Wayne Bloom, The Orient Express, and Billy Jack Haynes.

- Sting's concept of Dudes With Attitudes is working to perfection. I can't remember any other time since the inception of the Horsemen back in 1986 that a full four-some of Horsemen has been in such confusion and disarray. I just hope that in fighting fire with fire, Sting doesn't become the kind of champion that Ric Flair was. I'd hate to see his title defenses marred by outside interference from the Dudes, no matter how loudly the fans would cheer the Horsemen getting beaten.

See you next month.



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# NAMES MAKI



**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**

**I**NJURED WWF STAR **Brutus Beefcake** was released from a Florida hospital on July 15 after undergoing extensive surgery for serious facial injuries. Beefcake was injured during a parasailing accident on July 4 in Lutz, Florida.

"His nose was crushed and everything from the bridge of the nose down was crushed, too," said **B. Brian Blair**, who was with Beefcake when the accident occurred. "His jaws were wired and he was put on a liquid diet for six weeks."

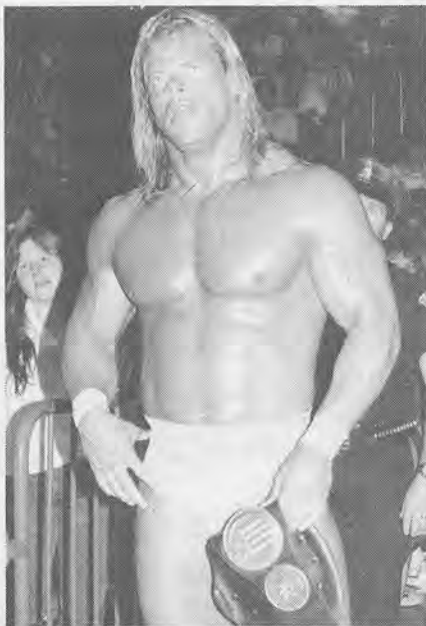
According to a news release issued by Beefcake's family, a team of physicians, headed by cranial/facial plastic surgeon **Dr. Mutaz Habal**, performed an 8½-hour surgical procedure to repair Beefcake's facial features. The accident involved fractures of all facial elements. Doctors had to peel back Beefcake's skin, cut his hair entirely, and insert eight steel plates, 40 screws, and more than 100 staples into his head. Luckily, "The Barber" suffered no brain or eye damage.

It will be some time before Beefcake returns to the wrestling ring, if at all. Physicians have speculated that it will be at least 18 months before he can attempt to make a comeback.

"He's going to make it, we all love him and we're saying our prayers for him so that he can make it back," said **Hulk Hogan**, Beefcake's close friend, in the July 10 edition of the *Tampa Tribune*.

Fans who wish to send cards and letters to Beefcake may do so in care of: Gold's Gym, 7815 N. Dale Maybry, Tampa, Florida, 33614.

(For a complete report on Beefcake's accident, see the November 1990 issue of *The Wrestler*, currently on sale.)



**LEX LUGER**

U.S. champion **Lex Luger** was the victim of yet another shocking attack by **The Four Horsemen**. The ambush occurred during an NWA television taping on July 16 in Gainesville, Georgia.

Luger was scheduled to be interviewed at the end of the taping, but he was nowhere to be found. Moments later, the "Total Package," who was



**OLE ANDERSON**

badly beaten and wearing torn clothes, ran to the ring and announced that he had just been beaten up by the Horsemen in the parking lot.

"This is so typical of those lowlifes," he said afterward as his injuries were being treated. "They did the same thing to me in 1988. They're a little bit jealous because I've held the U.S. title for so long, I guess. But with the other **Dudes With Attitudes** to assist me, we're going to avenge this attack and drive those Horsemen right out of the NWA."

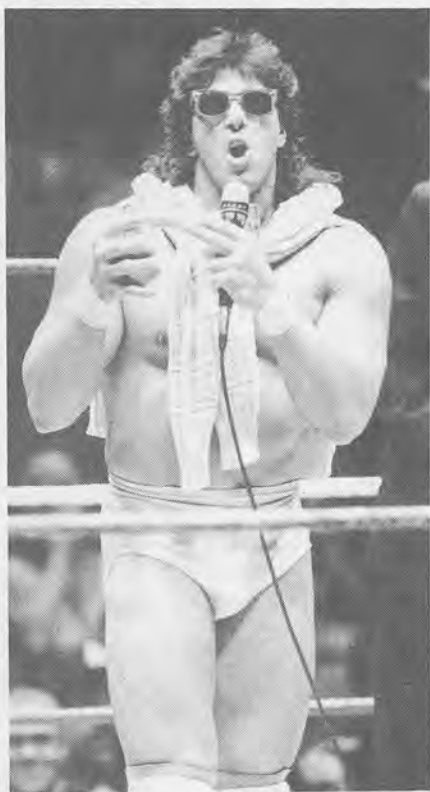
Horsemen manager **Ole Anderson** was quite happy with the result of the attack.

"This is just the first step toward regaining Horsemen dominance," boasted Anderson. "First, we nearly succeeded in crippling **Sting**, and now we've beaten up Luger so badly he doesn't even know what his name is. Just wait'll the world sees the *next* phase of our brilliant new plan." It seems to me like the Horsemen are riding for a suspension!

# N' NEWS

Bill Apter  
reporting...

Before venturing to the WWF, **Kerry Von Erich** lost the USWA Texas title to **Angel of Death** on July 13 in Dallas, but it was through no fault of his own. The "Modern-Day Warrior" was attacked before his scheduled match by bodybuilder **Rod Price**, and was so badly injured that he could not wrestle. USWA officials gave Angel the championship by forfeit ... Former NWA World champion **Ric Flair** missed several weeks of action with a hyperextended right knee ... **Rick Martel** also was on the disabled list



RICK MARTEL

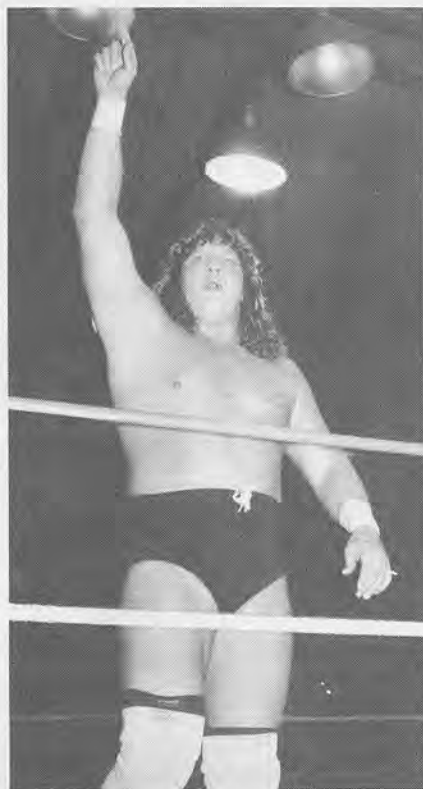
with a pinched nerve in his right arm.

**Stan Hansen** has long been considered one of the wildest men in the sport, but he got a bit too crazy during a recent NWA TV taping. Hansen was suspended from the NWA for 30 days for clotheslining referee **Pee Wee Anderson** following a match against **Tommy Rich**. Hansen was also fined

\$5,000 for his brutal attack.

"It just goes to show you that everybody in the NWA is soft," spit Hansen, tobacco juice flying everywhere. "Nobody in that federation is tough enough to beat me, so they're trying to ban me so that nobody gets hurt. Well, it's not going to work. I'll serve the suspension and cough up the fine, but people around here are going to pay for it. I'm going to be twice as rough when I come back!"

After being suspended, Hansen returned to Japan, but his luck didn't get any better. He lost the "Triple Crown" of titles—the PWF, All-Japan International, and United National championships—to **Terry Gordy** on July 17 in Ishikawa City, Japan. Two days later, however, Gordy's good fortune turned sour as he and **Steve Williams** lost the PWF International and All-Japan tag team titles to **Jum-**



TERRY GORDY

**bo Tsuruta** and **The Great Kabuki** in Takeo, Japan.

**Vic Steamboat** defeated **Tony Atlas** to win the ICW title on July 24 in Middletown, New York ... **Bruno Sammartino, An Autobiography Of Wrestling's Living Legend**, has been published by Imagine Inc. The book is currently available at selected stores ... **Brian Lee** and big **Don Harris** have formed a new tag team in the USWA.



STEVE DOLL

**Steve Doll** is in the midst of a wild feud against **The Grappler** and **The Equalizer** in the Pacific Northwest area, and that fact hasn't been lost on **Scott Peterson**, who formerly teamed with Doll to form **The Southern Rockers**. Now, the popular Peterson has vowed to return to the PNW to help Doll.

"Steve is still my best friend in the world," said Peterson before taking off for Portland. "Anytime he's in trouble, you can be sure that I'll always be around to help him. Grappler and Equalizer are pretty tough, but they're no match for the Rockers!"

That's all for now, fans. See you at the matches! □



# THE INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

*[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]*

**B**EAUTY IS SERVED, beauty is ruined.

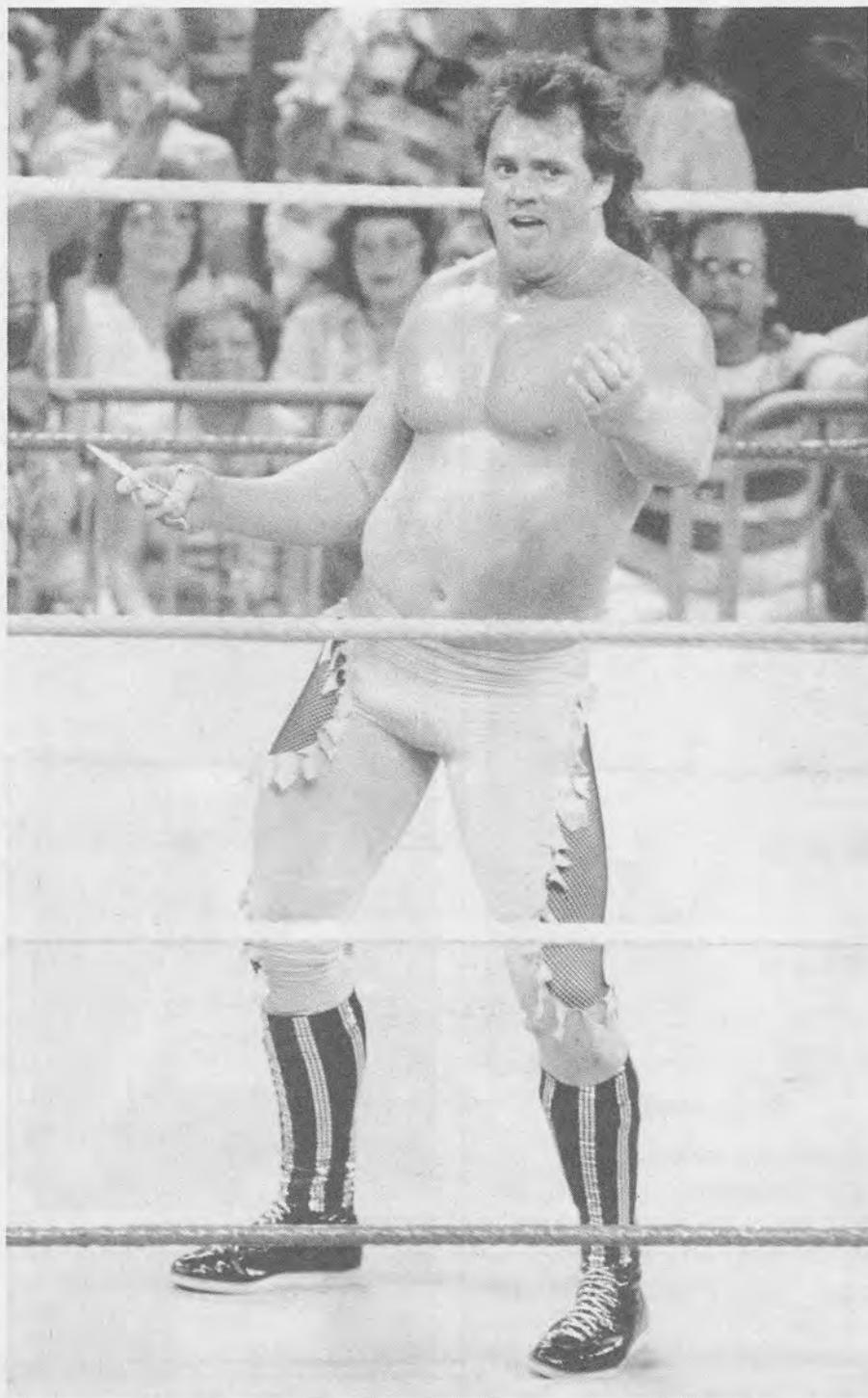
The consequences of injury dominate this month's wrestling headlines. As with most things in life, there is good news and there is bad news to report.

**Bad News: Brutus Beefcake loses face.**

The extent of the injuries Brutus Beefcake suffered while parasailing won't be known until many months from now, despite the long hours of painful reconstructive surgery already completed. But one thing is certain: The man they call "The Barber" got clipped, and the man who once called himself beautiful is pretty no more. Here is how it happened:

Parasailing is a fairly safe and harmless enterprise designed to provide (mostly for vacationing tourists) the simulated thrill of sky-diving and flying. It involves placing an opened parachute harness around one's neck and connecting the harness to a rope that is attached to a motorboat. As the boat speeds off, the parachute opens and the momentum lifts the parasailor off the ground to an eventual height of about 75 feet for a ride of about 10 minutes.

*(Continued on page 52)*



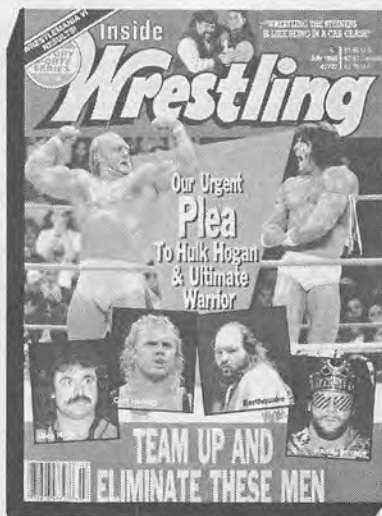
Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake suffered serious facial injuries in a parasailing accident. Those injuries may keep him out of the ring for a long time—perhaps forever.

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# A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

**T**HE DIAMOND CHOKER around Sapphire's neck sparkled in the bright arena light. From where I was sitting, it appeared the necklace was composed of 18 half-carat diamonds, which, my friends and I laughed was impossible since the value of such a jewel would approach \$100,000.

"No way Dusty coughs up that much moolah for a shiny piece of glass," said my friend. I couldn't help but offer Eddie Ellner's feeling on the possibility that Sapphire's jewel was Dusty-bought: "A hundred grand buys 185,000 blueberry donuts, 200,000 plain, or 45,000 pancake house specials. Where Dusty is concerned, his biggest jewel is his stomach."

We had a laugh over that one, though it soon became clear by the venomous look on Dusty's face that he certainly was not the purchaser of the necklace in question. "Where did you get that?" he seemed to say to Sapphire who in reply only shrugged her shoulders. Televised interviews later confirmed Sapphire's ignorance over the anonymous gifts and the identity of her mysterious benefactor. Meanwhile, Dusty remained livid that Sapphire would keep the treasure as Sapphire reveled in her good fortune and modeled the bauble proudly before the television cameras.

It doesn't take a private detective to figure who Sapphire's generous mystery man is—or, I should say, generous million-dollar mystery man.



Sapphire has been receiving some expensive jewelry lately, and Dusty Rhodes would like to know who the giftgiver is. Of course, it's Ted DiBiase.

For years, Ted DiBiase has harbored a not-so-private grudge against Dusty Rhodes. DiBiase felt it was Rhodes' dominant personality and big-bellied, home-spun persona that netted him so many NWA title shots, while quietly competent wrestlers like himself couldn't buy their way into a championship match. Ted has

never liked Dusty Rhodes and the fact that Rhodes has emerged as a bigger star in the territory DiBiase likes to think he owns is driving the "Million-Dollar Man" crazy.

"Ted gets nuts at the mention of the name Dusty Rhodes," said a locker room source. "I try to

*(Continued on page 54)*



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# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

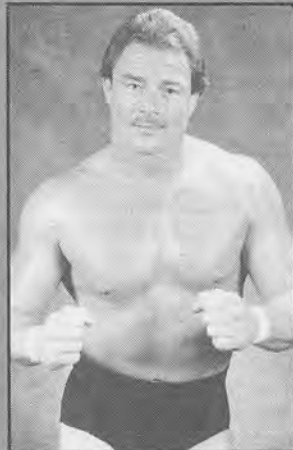
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



## DEAN HO

The man known as the "Happy Hawaiian" retired from the mat sport eight years ago after a successful stint in California. After his retirement, the former holder of the WWF World tag team title (with Tony Garea) returned to college

and received his bachelor's degree in psychology. Today, Ho is happy living with his family in a suburb of Vancouver, British Columbia. He also operates a successful Food Emporium store.



## B. BRIAN BLAIR

The former member of The Killer Bees (with Jim Brunzell) still wrestles on occasion for an independent association that promotes the sport on Army, Navy, and Air Force bases. The popular scientific star also competes in Japan,

but he spends the majority of his time operating a Gold's Gym outlet near Tampa, Florida. "The fans have always meant a great deal to me," said Blair. "I hope they'll come visit me at the gym or at the matches."



## MIKE DAVIS

Formerly a member of The Rock 'n' Roll RPMs with Tommy Lane, Davis is now wrestling for independent organizations in Kentucky and Louisiana. The fleet-footed blond rulebreaker has also been feuding with Rick Gibson and Todd

Morton, who now are known as The Junior Rock 'n' Roll Express. "I couldn't stand the *real* Rock 'n' Rolls, and now I have to put up with these wimps," spit Davis. "I just need to find a good partner to help wipe 'em out."



## WOMAN

Now living comfortably at her Florida estate, Woman has informed us that she has been embroiled in legal problems with the NWA. The beautiful brunette was suspended from the federation after bringing a foreign object to the

ring to aid Ric Flair in his cage match against Lex Luger at "Capital Combat '90." "I will be back," Woman assured us. "I don't know when that might be, but when I return, I will own the entire federation!"

# INSIDE WRESTLING

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## CAPSULE PROFILE

**T**HE "AMERICAN DREAM" Dusty Rhodes is one of the most engaging personalities in the sport (*"The people just love to see the 'Dream'"*) ... Began his wrestling career in 1969 (*"The squared circle looked like a lot of fun"*) ... With Dick Murdoch, formed an infamous tag team known as The Outlaws (*"The baddest men in the West—and the East"*) ... On August 21, 1979, captured his first NWA World title with a victory over Harley Race (*"A lifetime goal achieved"*) ... Lost the belt to Race five nights later (*"There would be other, better days"*) ... In 1980, wrestled Bob Backlund for the WWF title in Japan (*"Got a bum deal from the referee"*) ... Captured his second NWA title, again from Race, on June 21, 1981 (*"This time, he wouldn't get it back"*) ... A long-running feud with Ric Flair began when he lost the belt to Flair on September 17, 1981 (*"The 'Nature Boy' has been a thorn in the side"*) ... Teamed with Manny Fernandez to win the NWA World tag team title from Ivan Koloff and Don Kernodle on October 20, 1984 (*"Manny was a tremendous partner"*) ... Suffered a controversial loss to Flair in wrestling's first million-dollar match, at Starrcade '84 on Thanksgiving night (*"Joe Frazier shoulda never stopped it"*) ... Won the NWA TV title from Tully Blanchard on March 16, 1985; later had to

## DUSTY RHODES



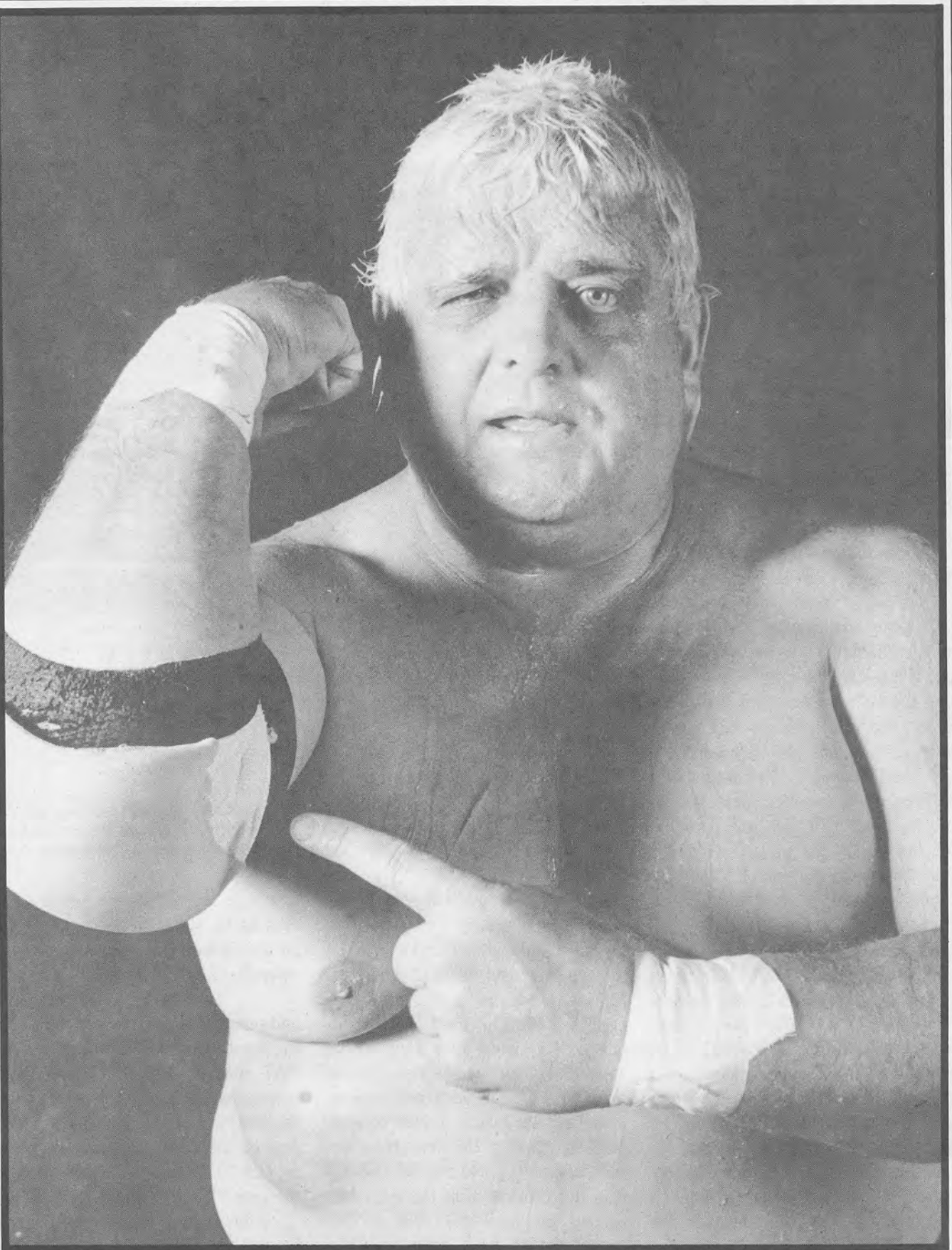
Dusty Rhodes is about to ambush Randy Savage, the most persistent foe he has faced since rejoining the WWF last year. Rhodes' manager, Sapphire, has been invaluable to him during this feud.

give up the belt due to an injury (*"Just one of those breaks"*) ... Two days later, he and Fernandez lost the tag belts to Ivan and Nikita Koloff (*"The big, bad Russians were nastier than ever"*) ... Won his third NWA World title with a victory over Flair on July 26, 1986 (*"How many men can call themselves three-time World champions?"*) ... On August 9, Flair regained the belt (*"Blame The Four Horsemen for that one"*) ... He and Nikita Koloff won the Crockett Cup tag team tournament on April 11, 1987 (*"Nikita turned out to be a good man"*) ... Won the U.S. title from Lex Luger at Starrcade '87 on November 26, 1987 (*"Another major championship in the*

*bag"*) ... Stripped of the belt in 1988 after he hit NWA President Jim Crockett with a baseball bat while defending Magnum T.A. (*"The whole thing was sad"*) ... Early in 1989, left the NWA and returned to Florida, where he beat Big Steel Man (now Tugboat) for the PWF title on March 11 (*"A sweet homecoming"*) ... Soon after losing the belt to Steel Man on May 13, he entered the WWF (*"New challenges to be faced"*) ... Took on Sapphire as his manager (*"The finest lady in the land"*) ... After a lengthy feud with Randy Savage and Sensational Sherri, they're on the verge of a showdown with Ted DiBiase (*"His millions of dollars won't save him"*)



## **CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP**



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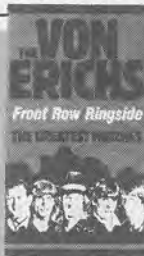


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## OTTAWA, ONTARIO By Barry Hayes



**HERCULES HERNANDEZ  
vs.  
AKEEM**



The huge Chicago native turned "African" took the early lead in this bout using power maneuvers, but Hercules battled back and repeatedly clotheslined Akeem until he eventually fell to the mat. The 468-pound giant regained control by using a host of foul tactics, but Hercules took the victory after clotheslining Akeem into the turnbuckles and following up with a small package.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Tugboat smashed Dino Bravo ... The Barbarian upset Jimmy Snuka ... Paul Roma downed Buddy Rose ... Dusty Rhodes pinned Randy Savage ... Demolition—Smash & Crush—beat Bret Hart & Jim Neidhart to retain the WWF World tag team title.

## HILO, HI By Dorian Cheney



**LARRY ZBYSZKO  
vs.  
KERRY VON ERICH**



This AWA World title match began with the "Living Legend" attempting his usual psych job on the crowd, which led to the "Modern-Day Warrior" pursuing Zbyszko around the ring. A slugfest broke out that spilled outside the ring, where Von Erich tried a discus punch, but hit the ringpost by accident. When they returned to the mat, Von Erich attempted a clawhold, but Bob Orton ran to the ring, forcing the referee to call for a disqualification.

**OTHER BOUTS:** The Bounty Hunter downed John Rambo to win the AWF title ... Bambi beat Rusty Fox ... The Fantastics defeated The Satanic Warriors ... Don Muraco upset Kamala ... Sgt. Slaughter pinned The Iron Sheik ... Neil Superior defeated Bob Orton by forfeit.

## BOSTON, MA By Nelson Carvalho



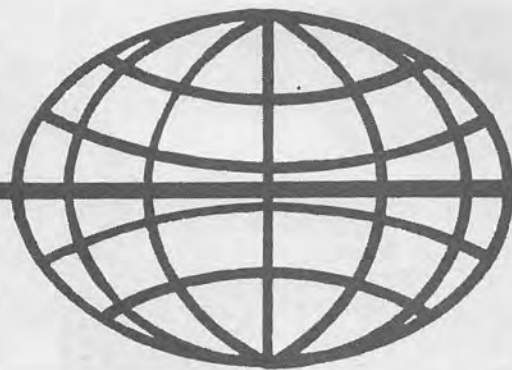
**THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR  
vs.  
RICK RUDE**



After the opening bell, Warrior controlled the early going by flooring Rude with clotheslines. Rude took control with a pair of piledrivers and two "Rude awakening" neckbreakers, but he failed to get a pinfall on the massive WWF World champion. After making his way back to his feet, Warrior caught Rude with five huge clotheslines and a shoulderblock for the stunning victory.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Steve Lombardi upset Jim Brunzell ... Warlord trounced Tito Santana ... Marty Jannetty & Shawn Michaels defeated The Orient Express by countout ... Big Bossman pinned Ted DiBiase ... Koko B. Ware beat Lanny Poffo.

# WRESTLING CAPITALS



## OKLAHOMA CITY, OK By Jo Ellen Baggs



**JUNKYARD DOG  
vs.  
ARN ANDERSON**



The popular Dog came away with a controversial victory over the NWA TV champion in this wild match. Anderson first pinned JYD, but the Dog complained that he had been hit with a foreign object. The referee checked Anderson for an object and found one lodged in the "Enforcer's" trunks. The fans cheers were thunderous as the referee raised Dog's hand in victory after disqualifying Anderson.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Norman beat Alex Porteau ... Mike Rotundo pinned Buddy Landell ... Paul Orndorff upset "Mean" Mark Callous ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express defeated The Samoan Swat Team ... Ron Simmons pinned Tommy Rich ... Rick & Scott Steiner beat Michael Hayes & Jim Garvin.

## PORTLAND, OR By Kenn Jones



**SCOTT NORTON  
vs.  
BILLY JACK HAYNES**



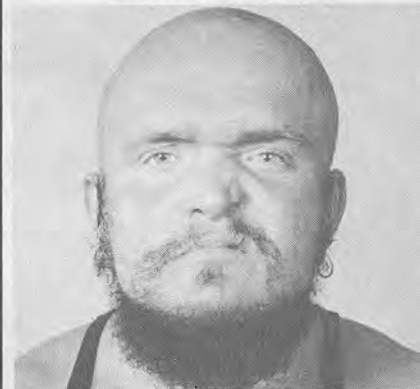
The Portland Sports Arena was the scene of a thrilling battle between two of the sport's strongest men. When Haynes realized that he couldn't outmuscle his opponent, he didn't seem to know what to do. Haynes tried a flying tackle but was lifted up by Norton and tossed off. Haynes put his full-nelson on Norton, but the big man reached for the ropes, forcing referee Sandy Barr to call for a break. Haynes then elbowed Barr and tossed him over the ropes, forcing the referee to disqualify him.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Beetlejuice beat The Equalizer by disqualification ... Steve Doll pinned Moondog Moretti ... Scotty the Body downed Al Madril ... Larry Oliver beat The Grappler by disqualification.

## MILWAUKEE, WI By Andy Abrahamson



**NIKOLAI VOLKOFF  
vs.  
BORIS ZUKHOV**



At the beginning of this bout, the two Russians engaged in a test of strength. Volkoff had Zuhkov on his knees begging for mercy until Zuhkov kicked Volkoff in the stomach. After being pounded for several minutes, Volkoff finally fought back. After pounding his former partner with every maneuver in his arsenal, Volkoff whipped Zuhkov into the corner, blasted him with a clothesline, and pinned him.

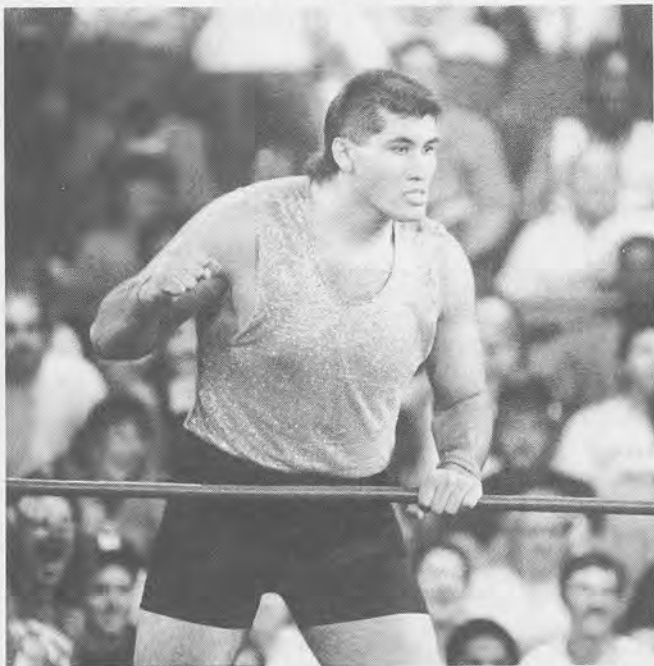
**OTHER BOUTS:** The Ultimate Warrior destroyed Rick Rude ... Tito Santana defeated Curt Hennig by disqualification ... The Rockers beat The Orient Express by countout ... Hercules pinned Akeem ... Koko B. Ware beat Lanny Poffo ... Ron Garvin downed Mike Sharpe.





# Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

**BALTIMORE, MD:** Yeah, yours truly was here, too. I'll keep this short and sweet, since the Arena started to look like a wrestling scribe's convention after a while. Number one, Sting's victory over Ric Flair for the NWA World title was no fluke. Flair was done. Sting is ready. Period. Second, El Gigante should go back to basketball. Sure, this guy is big, but that's about all he is. Period. Third, Baltimore used to be a great place for a writer to hang out. The *Baltimore Sun*, one of this nation's great papers, kept turning out men who knew how to work their beats and knew what to do after working their beats. Which brings me to my final point. Walked down to the



**EL GIGANTE**

Harbor area after the card. Saw plenty of yuppies and red drinks with little umbrellas in them. Left. Walked toward Little Italy. Saw plenty of yuppies and wrestling fans. Left. Walked back to the Holiday Inn. The next hour I prefer not to discuss, but suffice to say that cholesterol is now a four-letter word in Matt Brock's dictionary, and I don't care whether it's high or low.

**SAVAGE, MN:** I packed my overnight bag, hopped a flight to Minneapolis, rented a car (a real jalopy from one of those low-rent places), and drove here for a PWA card at a VFW hall. That's what wrestling used to be all about: small buildings, independent promoters, men who wrestled because they didn't know where their next dollar would come from if they didn't. This card included Tony



**SHEIK ADNAN AL-KAISSIE**

DeNucci, Doug Whalen, Tommy Ferrara, Tim Hunt, and a couple of guys you might have heard of called Al-Kaissie and Jammer. I'm here to breathe in the cigar smoke, check out the fat broad at ringside, and down a

## Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

few with the boys afterward. Make that steak medium rare. Hold the salad. Light beer is a curse upon man. Yeah, I like vegetables. Green olives. Tell Saks that Brock is back. And by the way, Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie with a manager is absolutely ridiculous. Nothing a manager can do that Sheik can't do on his own.

**OMAHA, NE:** Kerry Von Erich makes his WWF debut, and the ramifications of that in Texas are so great I can't begin to get into them here. But I'm sure that folks from Texarkana to El Paso are wondering why. Well, I'll tell you why: The powers that be in Texas wrestling took the ring and slid it right out from under Kerry. Now listen: Kerry Von Erich was the greatest thing to happen to Texas wrestling since Fritz Von Erich and the Funks. Kerry was a real hero to these people, then Eric Embry was allowed to steal the spotlight. Then they took the World Class and turned it into the USWA, pretty much wiping out any memory of all the good the Von Erichs had done for this area. That's payback? Listen, folks, these people slipped the Von Erichs a mickey. Then they stole the Texas title from Kerry. Then he decided to leave and everybody was shocked. The outrage! The shame! The traitor! Forget it, folks. Kerry Von Erich did what was best for himself. He went to a place where the money was right and the opportunity was right: a chance to go after Curt Hennig's Intercontinental title. Good move, m'bucko. So Kerry shocked the world by showing up in Omaha tonight for this match. There'll be better things ahead, but first things first: Kerry ignored me. Looked me right in the eye, heard me say hello, then kept on walking. Saw him after the match while on the way to a neighborhood watering hole. Ignored me then, too. So I ordered a steak, best steak in the world here in Omaha. And enjoyed it.

**HAMILTON, ND:** Came here for an AWA card, ran into World champion Larry Zbyszko, and missed almost the entire show. "Now that Slaughter's gone," the self-proclaimed "Living Legend" crowed, "nobody's ever gonna get the belt from me." Slaughter, of course, is off to the WWF, where he first made a major name for himself. As for Zbyszko, he's still shaming the AWA World title and anyone who ever wore it. Talked to Verne Gagne, the masterful former owner of the belt—nine time!—and he just didn't want to talk about it. Nobody does. Larry Zbyszko, two-time AWA World champion.



**LARRY ZBYSZKO**

How in the world do such things happen? Zbyszko, he of little talent and even less honor, has been wearing that belt for most of the past two years. It's sickening. What did Zbyszko talk to me about for two hours? That's hard to say. He seemed pretty intent on convincing me that he's a great wrestler, that he's deserving of more praise. Forget it. Two hours with Zbyszko sent me scurrying for friendlier surroundings and fatty foods. Cholesterol's rising. You know, I actually looked in the mirror this morning and didn't quite know what I was looking at. Listen, folks, you can't teach an old dog new tricks, and I'm one of the oldest dogs in the pound. You can't teach a dog not to bark, either. Forget the dog sayings. Get this straight: Men like me were put on this earth for a reason. We'll be taken off for the same reason. And along the way, I'm damn well going to enjoy myself. Another night, another steak, another dame, another rejection. You got a problem with that? □



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# *Jeannie & Toni Adams:* **CAN THE USWA STOP THESE SAVAGE WILDCATS?**

Jeannie gladly leaves Toni Adams lying on the mat. Their vicious feud has thrown an entire federation into turmoil.

By Dave Rosenbaum

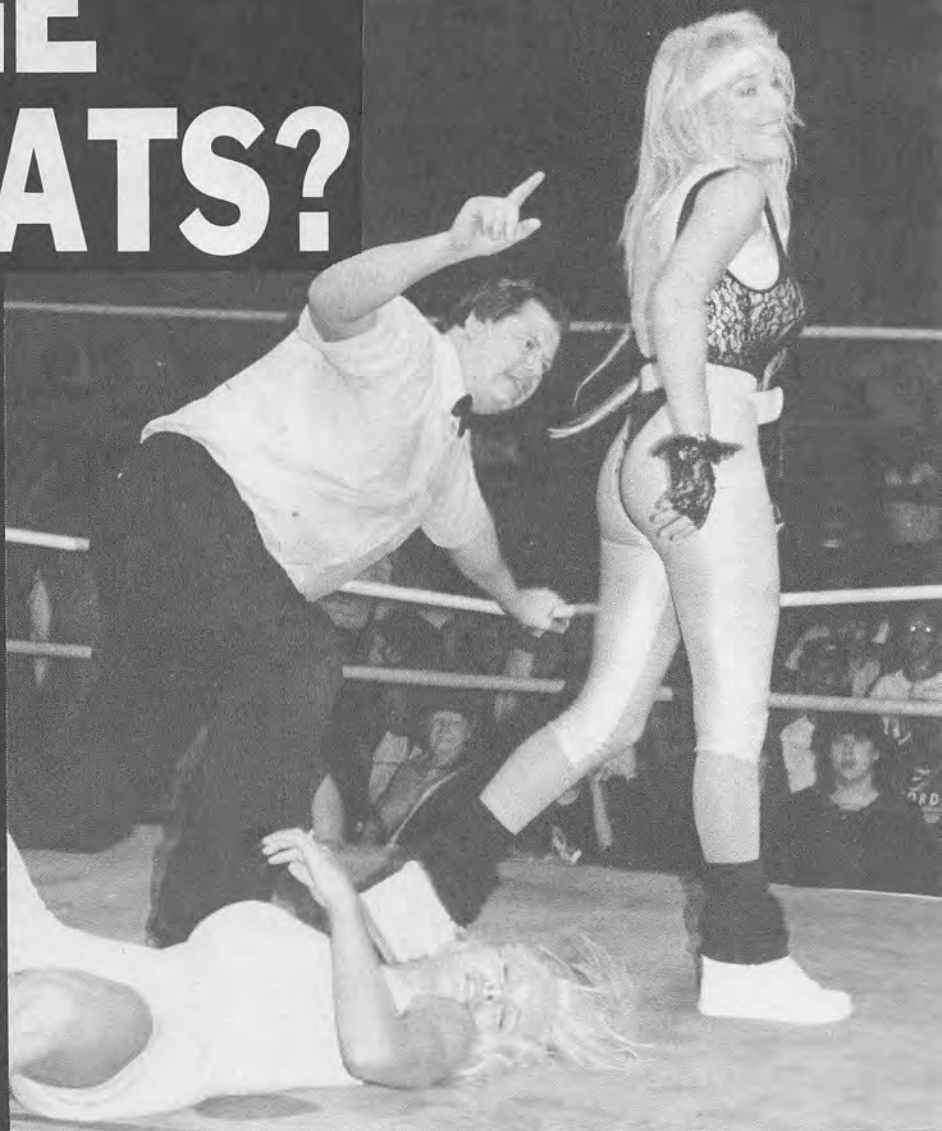
**C**HRIS ADAMS IS a member of the 50-50 Club, a club whose membership is weighing heavily on his happiness these days.

It is a sad fact of American life that about 50 percent of all marriages end in divorce. And it is a sadder fact of Chris Adams' life that he is still feeling the repercussions of his failed first marriage.

"One of these days, I'm going to write a book about what he did to me," said Jeannie, Adams' first wife. "When I do, that wench Toni is going to know things she never knew about her dear darling husband. She's gonna drop him like a bad habit, just like I did."

To which Toni replied:

"All I know is that Chris is the best husband a woman could ever ask for. If he had problems with his



***Jeannie and Toni Adams are two beautiful and determined women linked together by one man. Chris Adams is that man, the man caught in between these two feminine firebrands. Meanwhile, the USWA is feeling the brunt of their wild war—and there's no way it can stop them!***





Steve Austin holds Toni for Jeannie's slaps (above). Toni laces into Jeannie with all her might (below). What started out as a feud between Austin and Chris Adams has evolved into something neither man can control.



first marriage, I can't blame him. How can anyone live with someone like Jeannie?"

The details of Chris and Jeannie's marriage are still largely unknown. Who divorced whom? Who was at fault? How long did the marriage last?

"I'd rather leave all that behind me," Chris said. "Unfortunately, Jeannie won't let me."

Certain things, however, are crystal-clear: Jeannie still has strong feelings for her ex-husband. It is obvious that her thirst for revenge is tinged with a healthy dose of jealousy. But is she trying to get back at Chris, or is she trying to get Chris back?

That last question is one best answered by a marriage psychologist. But let's put aside marital matters for a moment. What's going on in the USWA these days is a classic triangle: two women fighting over (or for, or against) the same man.

The USWA, meanwhile, has a very big problem on its hands.

"Their marital problems do not belong in the ring," USWA President Max Andrews said. "These are personal problems, not wrestling problems, and they are interfering terribly with the goings-on of this federation. We've tried to stop them. Unfortunately, that has proven to be impossible."

So impossible that Jeannie and Toni managed to overcome a USWA order that they stay away from the ring for a recent match between Chris Adams and Steve Austin.

When the match ended, Toni went after Jeannie with a kendo stick. But Jeannie and Austin soon seized the advantage and battered Toni while Chris was helpless on the mat. It was a brutal scene, and far from the last such instance of unbridled savagery.

On July 4 in Dallas, Toni and Jeannie got involved in a war of their own while Austin and Adams



These women have beaten each other to exhaustion (above and below), but neither will be the first to quit. Don't expect this fight to end anytime soon.



battled in the ring. Before long, Austin and Jeannie tied up Toni in the ropes and battered her into submission. Toni was taken back to the dressing room on a stretcher, but one final indignity remained: Jeannie dumped Toni off of the stretcher.

What's next?

"We might just have to ban them from the buildings entirely," Andrews said.

Will that stop them?

"Probably not," Chris said. "My wife is angry, and I don't blame her. As for Jeannie, well, she's always been the kind of woman that does as she pleases. My biggest concern would be if they're totally banned, because then they'll take their fight to the streets. I don't want that to happen."

Toni is experienced in the ring wars. She has fought with Chris before and proven her courage, toughness, and stubbornness. She is not one to give up the fight. She is also in love with her husband.

"He means everything to me,"

*(Continued on page 56)*



# *The Four Horsemen Order Sid Vicious:*



## **GET LUGER'S BELT— OR GET OUT!**

**By Bob Smith**

**J**UST A FEW months ago, it seemed like The Four Horsemen were primed to take over the NWA. Included in their talent-laden roster were then-World champion Ric Flair, TV champion Arn Anderson, Barry Windham, and a mas-

sive 6'8" youngster by the name of Sid Vicious.

Flair, Windham, and Anderson had proven their championship skills many times in the past. But in the case of Vicious, the Horsemen were taking a calculated risk. Although he had held the CWA title briefly late in 1988, Vicious' career

has been a constant series of highs and lows for most of the past year.

"We don't care about what's happened in the past," said Horsemen manager Ole Anderson after Vicious joined the group in the spring. "I don't care about what happened with The Skyscrapers. I don't give a damn about his punctured right

**Most wrestling experts considered it a major coup when The Four Horsemen added rising superstar Sid Vicious to the organization. But now, the other Horsemen are getting impatient with the big man—and they're making some pretty heavy demands!**



The Horsemen are counting on Sid Vicious (left) to win the U.S. title from Lex Luger (right). If he doesn't, he may find himself on the outs with the sport's most notorious band of rulebreakers.



lung, either. All I know is that we've got a 318-pound behemoth who will add to the Horsemen legacy of championships. I predict that Vicious will take the U.S. title from Lex Luger the very first time he gets the opportunity."

Unfortunately for the Horsemen, that isn't what happened. When Vicious met Luger at Clash of the Champions XI on June 13 in Charleston, South Carolina, it was expected that Vicious would give the "Total Package" the toughest test of his title reign. Instead, Luger outsmarted Vicious and pinned the big man in a mere 26 seconds.

*(Continued on page 58)*



## A TALE OF TWO EX-CHAMPIONS

### **PART I** **RIC** **FLAIR:**

### **WHY A SEVENTH TITLE IS OUT OF REACH**

When Ric Flair's sixth NWA World title reign ended, he quickly set his sights on regaining the belt and matching the record of seven titles held by Harley Race. But the experts agree that he probably won't make it.

Here's why



By Dave Rosenbaum

**H**ARLEY RACE SET the standard. WWF fans may know of Race only as a comical "King" who paraded around in royal regalia, but NWA fans and wrestling historians know the real truth: Nobody has won more NWA World titles than Race.

He was an outstanding scientific wrestler and a classic ring technician. As the years passed, he became a wily veteran with a way around any problem.

Race won seven NWA World titles, setting himself up as the ultimate goal of those who dare to dream of greatness.

Now, following his loss to Sting at The Great American Bash on July 7 in Baltimore, Ric Flair is in a position to equal Race's great achievement.

"By losing, I won," Flair said.

Flair meant, of course, that he could never have had the chance of going after his seventh NWA World title if his sixth reign didn't end. So, he took his stunning defeat to Sting and turned it into a positive: a chance for greatness.

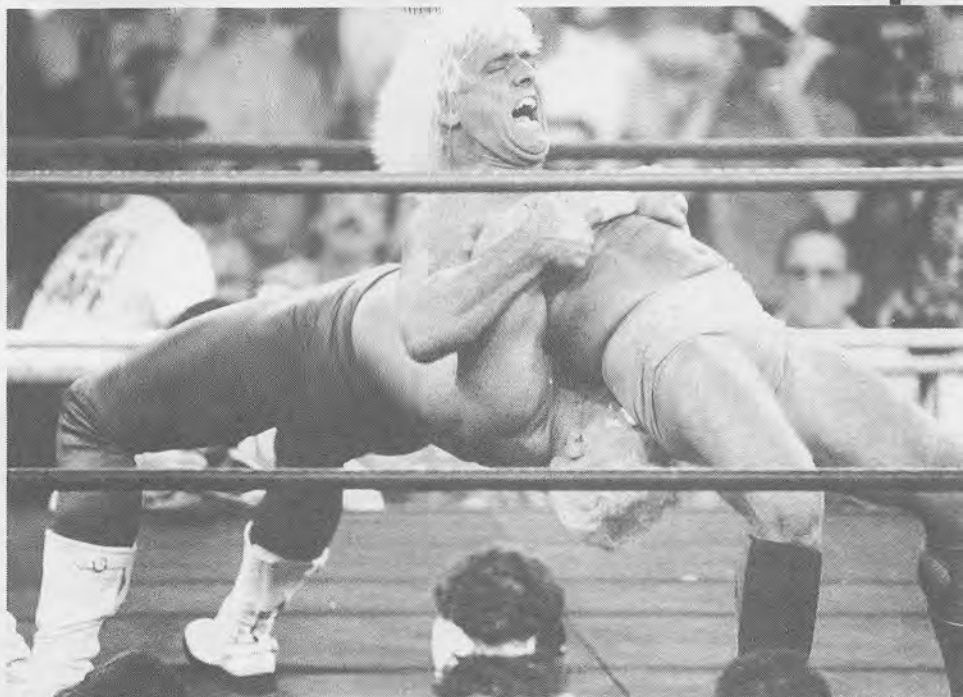
"It's not going to happen," Sting vowed.

"Flair will never win another World title," Luger insisted. "The Flair era is over."

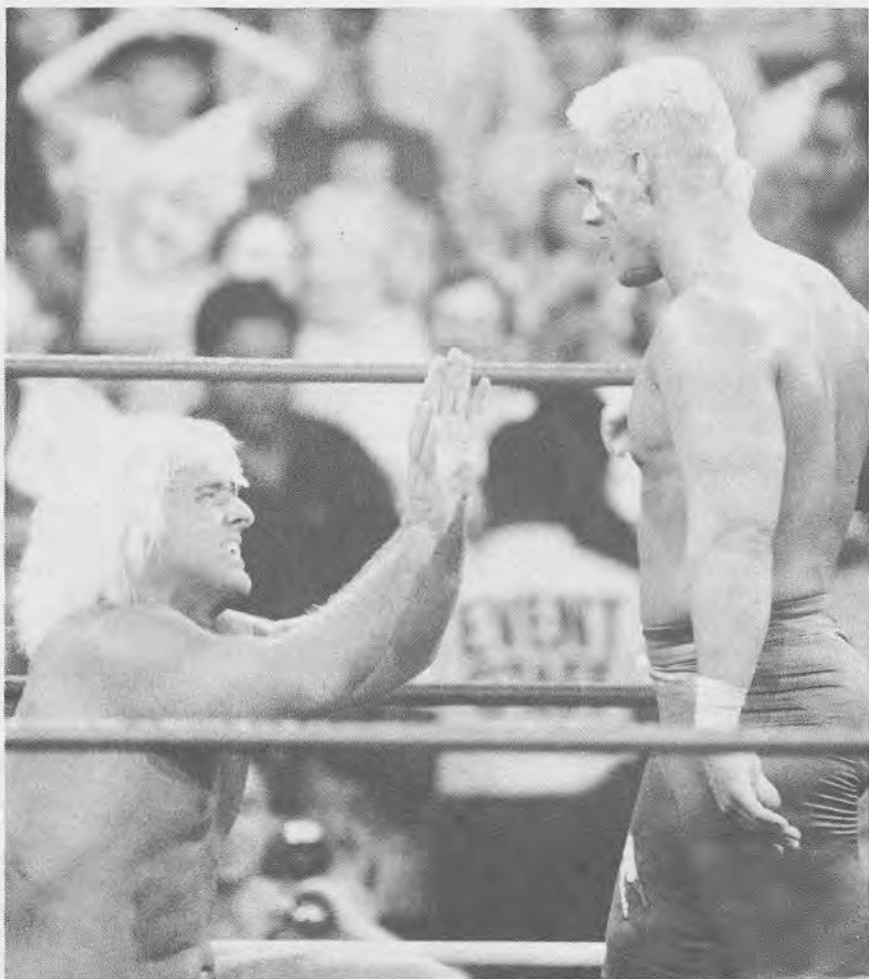
"I'd love to see somebody tie the record," said Lou Thesz, who also won six NWA World titles. "But I can't see it happening. Not with the current crop of talent in the NWA and not the way Flair's wrestling. There would have to be some changes."

Wrestling historians would point out that Flair usually doesn't waste much time regaining the title after he loses it. The time between Flair's reigns has averaged about 65 days; some non-title tenures have lasted less than two or three weeks! And

*(Continued on page 60)*



After losing the NWA World title to Sting (above and below), Ric Flair has had to reevaluate his career. His conclusion: "By losing, I won."



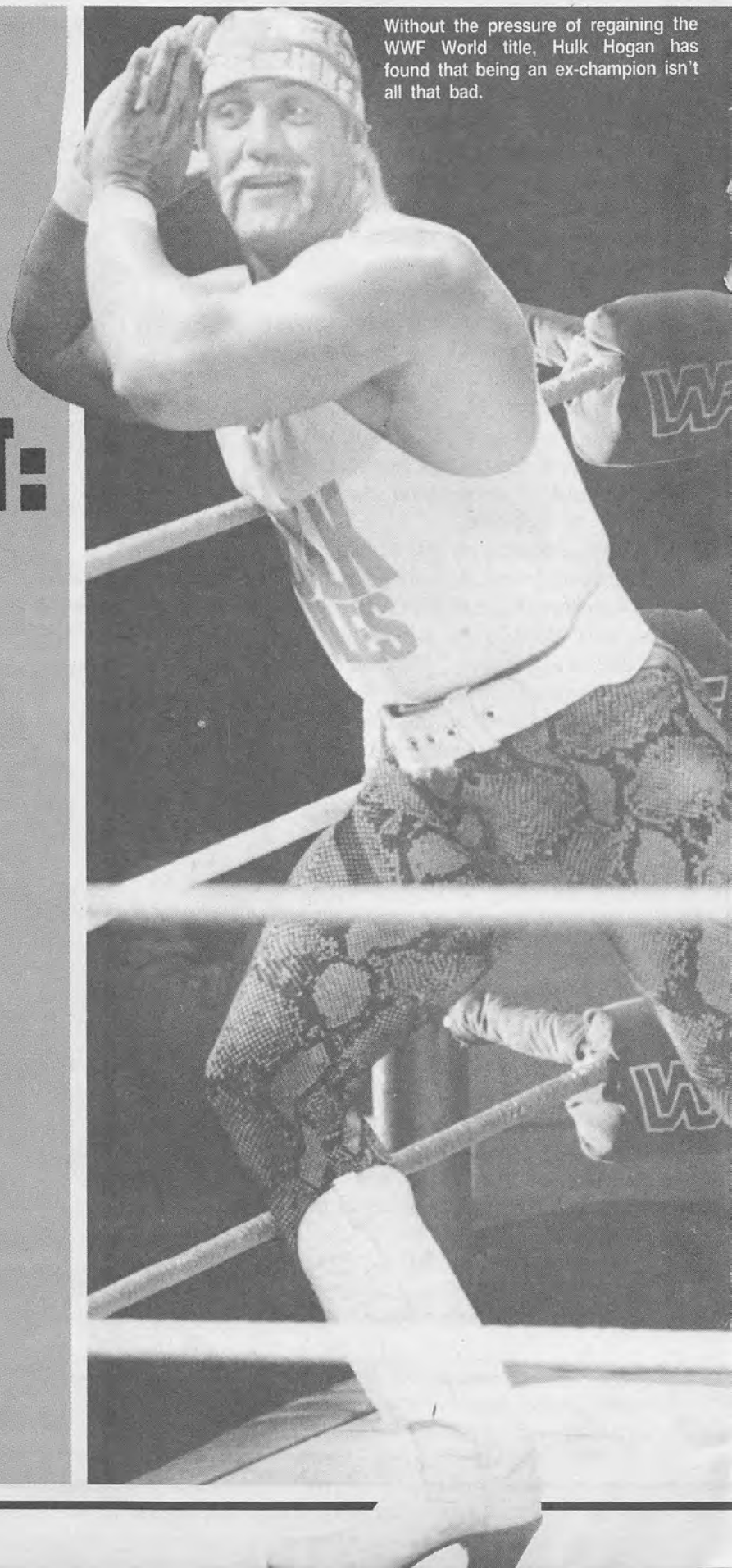


# **HULK HOGAN:**

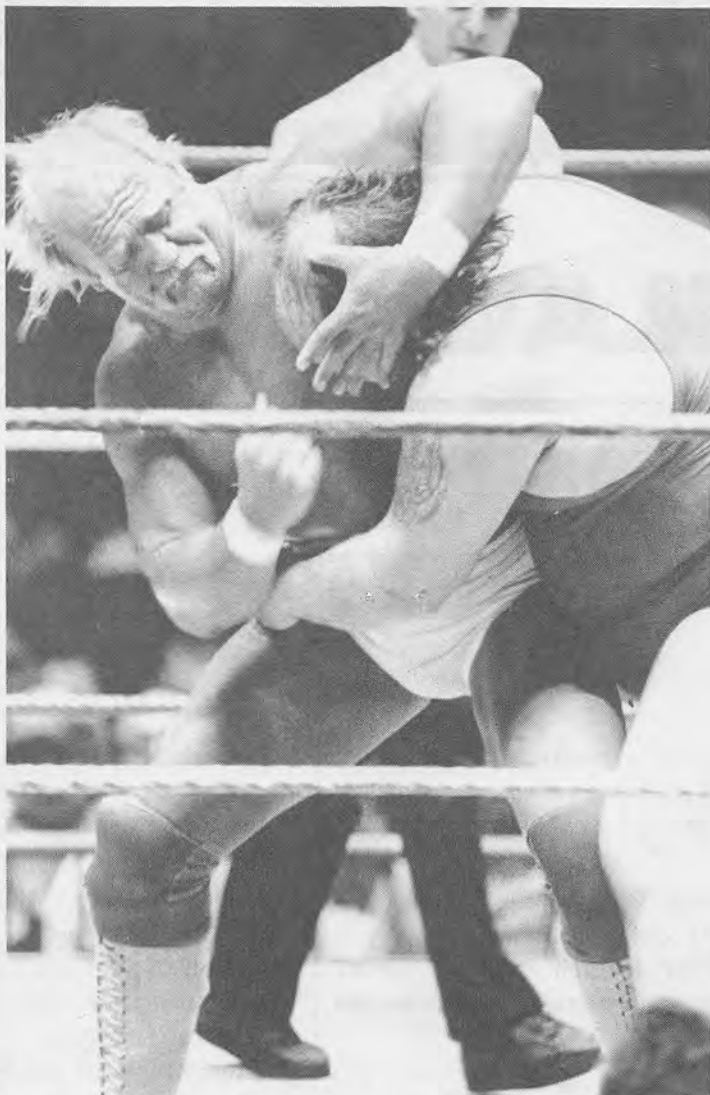
## **HAPPIER WITHOUT THE BELT!**

It's not easy being a former world champion. But Hulk Hogan has put the past behind him and is now looking forward to a long, happy, no-title reign. Once he was bitter . . . now he's happier without the belt!

Without the pressure of regaining the WWF World title, Hulk Hogan has found that being an ex-champion isn't all that bad.



By Craig Peters



The feud with Earthquake (above) has forced Hulk to put aside the pain he felt in losing the World title to Ultimate Warrior (below).



**T**HE INITIAL REACTION was shock, shame, embarrassment. Hulk Hogan publicly sang the glories of The Ultimate Warrior after losing the WWF World title at WrestleMania VI, but inside, he was bitter and angry.

Winners don't take losing easily.

Then Hogan was denied a rematch against the Warrior. That made him angrier. Then he was seriously injured in an attack by Earthquake and sidelined for nearly the entire summer. Steam rose from Hogan's insides.

His fortunes had turned drastically and suddenly. He was no longer just an ex-champion; he was a sidelined ex-champion with little chance of a complete recovery.

Then, just weeks into his unplanned hiatus, Hogan started to feel a strange sense of relief. Where there was agitation, there was now peace. Where there was pain, there was now healing. Where there was bitterness, there was now a feeling of renewal.

Just months ago, a similar injury would have meant a battle against time for the "Hulkster." He would have had to force himself back into action simply to save his title. He would have had to do it, too, to save his reputation.

Now there was no timetable.

Now there was no reputation to salvage.

Now there was only Hogan and himself. And suddenly, he found himself happier than he had ever been before.

Without the pressures ... without the fans beating down his back ... without the federation guidelines ... Hogan learned a man without a belt is not always an unhappy man.

"He started enjoying life this past summer," said a close friend of Ho-

*(Continued on page 62)*



# HOTSEAT

## SGT. SLAUGHTER

### "MY COLD WAR ISN'T OVER YET!"

**S**INCE LAST FALL, Sgt. Slaughter has been a man on a mission. The former Marine drill instructor had directed most of his efforts to leading Sarge's Snipers in the AWA's Team Challenge Series. At the same time, he continued to strive for Larry Zbyszko's AWA World title.

But in the early summer, the rumor mill started grinding out reports that Slaughter was interested in returning to the WWF, the site of his greatest fame. In was in that federation that Slaughter captured the imagination of the general public by engaging in violent feuds against anti-American competitors The Iron Sheik and Nikolai Volkoff. In the mid-'80s, Slaughter's popularity rivaled that of even Hulk Hogan as he waged full-scale battles against the men the fans hated.

As it turned out, the rumors were true. Slaughter was indeed planning to return to the WWF, but those close to the 310-pound Parris Island, South Carolina, resident insisted that Slaughter was slowly evolving back into the rulebreaker he once was.

Associate Editor Bob Smith caught up with Slaughter just days before the former fan favorite made his departure from the AWA. He found Slaughter

to be in a particularly foul mood, which was quite a change from the last time the two men spoke.

**Q:** Sarge, it's good to see you again. I'm glad . . .

**A:** What are you so happy about?

“

**I've got my sights set on that no-good anti-American scum, Nikolai Volkoff.**

”

**And chin up, shoulders straight when you address a Marine, mister!**

**Q:** Er, I was going to say that I was glad to hear that you're making plans to return to the WWF. I'm sure that many of the fans will be pleased to see you back in action there.

**A:** It doesn't matter to me what the

fans think. They're not the reason why I'm going back to the WWF, anyway. I've got an important mission ahead of me, and that's the only thing that's on my mind right now.

**Q:** So what's your goal? Winning the Intercontinental title from Curt Hennig, perhaps?

**A:** How wrong can you be? You see, I've got my sights set on that no-good anti-American scum, Nikolai Volkoff.

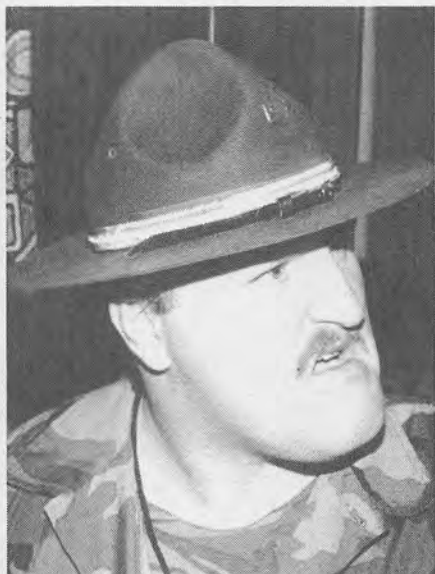
**Q:** What? Volkoff? I can't believe what I'm hearing. It wasn't that long ago that we ran a story where you praised Volkoff for taking the United States as his adopted home. As a matter of fact, I think I have a copy of it with me right now. [Smith reaches into his briefcase and pulls out the October 1990 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling*.] Yes, here it is—"Sgt. Slaughter's Incredible Admission: 'I'm Proud of Nikolai Volkoff!'"

**A:** Purely a smokescreen, my good man. Lull the enemy into a false sense of security—and then attack! I really have to thank you guys for buying that load of crap.

**Q:** You used us.







“

**A lot of stupid Americans say they trust the Russians these days, but I don't.**

“



In 1984, Sgt. Slaughter engaged The Iron Sheik in a feud that is still widely discussed. Now, Slaughter is back in the WWF, and he's after Sheik's former partner, Nikolai Volkoff.

**A:** Hey, there are no rules in war. And Volkoff and me, we're going to war. He hasn't changed a bit.

**Q:** How can you say that? This is a man who waves the American flag and sings the "Star-Spangled Banner" before all his matches!

**A:** Big deal. If you want to believe the load of crap that Volkoff is doling out, that's your problem. He's still a Russian, right? That means that he's cut from the same communist cloth that he's always been, and that also means he's trying to pull the wool over the eyes of the fans and promoters. I'm not buying it for a minute. The last time I was in the WWF, that guy and his Iranian partner tried to put me out of this sport forever, and that's something that I will never forgive them for. And if the fans were smart,

they'd see that commie scum for what he really is.

**Q:** I think they *do* see Volkoff for what he is. He's now one of the sport's biggest patriots, and you should be smart enough to see that for yourself.

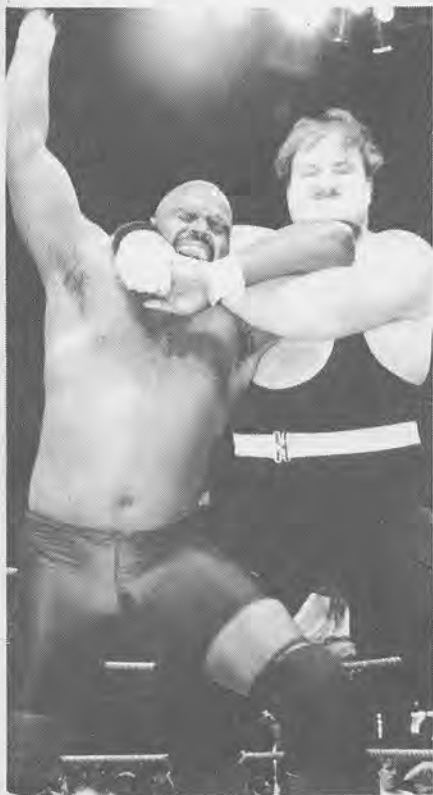
**A:** He's no patriot, and you know it. He's nothing more than a lousy red spy sent over here to infiltrate our American way of life. Then, when he's finished learning all our secrets, he'll use them against us, just like Gorbachev is doing now.

A lot of stupid Americans say they trust the Russians these days, but I don't. My cold war isn't over yet, and I'm not going to be happy until I drive all the foreign maggots out of wrestling forever.

**Q:** I'm totally shocked to hear you talk this way. After all, you had two foreigners on your Team Challenge Series squad: Col. DeBeers, a South African, and Nikita Koloff, another Russian. You seemed to get along with Koloff, at least.

**A:** I did try to get along with Koloff.

But I was doing it because I had to, not because I wanted to. Look at what happened with DeBeers. Every time I sent him into battle to try to score points for our team, he'd give me a hard time. Why, after one match, the guy even tried to attack me. It just goes to show that you can't trust anyone who wasn't born in this country. As for Koloff, he did a pretty good job,



The cobra clutch has always been Slaughter's most effective maneuver, and he can't wait to use it on Volkoff.

but as far as I'm concerned he's just another phony trying to cash in on our American way of life.

**Q:** You know, I haven't heard you talk this irrationally since the early '80s, when you were managed by The Grand Wizard in the WWF.

**A:** Maybe that's where I've made some mistakes the past few years. The Wiz was a brilliant man, and he was every bit as much of a true American as I am. He was the mastermind behind my cobra clutch, as well as many of the other maneuvers I use in almost every match. He was the man who really gave me my drive when I first hit the big time, and I think that I may have drifted too far away

from some of his teachings. He was just like the Marines in that he wanted to win at all costs. Well, maybe for the past couple of years I haven't been tough enough. Maybe I've lost sight of what made me great to begin with. But now, I'm forging straight on into battle. I know who my enemy is, and that's Volkoff.

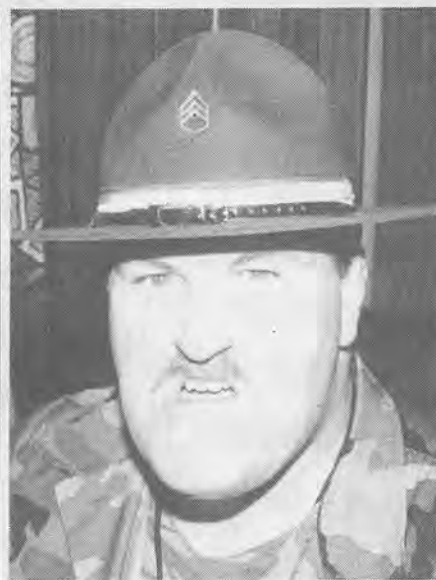
**Q:** But Volkoff isn't alone in his pro-American stance. Lately, he's been teaming with Hacksaw Duggan, a man who's been as vociferously pro-American as you are.

**A:** That just shows what a dummy Duggan really is. Seems to me I recall Duggan having a bloody feud with Volkoff the same way I did, and it wasn't all that long ago. But I saw the bit on TV where Duggan came out and handed Volkoff his American flag. It almost made me want to puke. Here was Duggan, a man who claims to love his country, handing our greatest symbol of freedom to a guy who doesn't even deserve to be standing on our historic shores. Well, you can be assured that I'm not that stupid. If I catch Volkoff defiling Old Glory with his commie hands one more time, I'll snatch that flag and beat him over the head with it.

**Q:** Do you realize what you're saying? Can't you see that with this new, aggressive stance you're taking that you'll surely disappoint millions of fans that have been following you for years?

**A:** I can't worry about that garbage. If the fans are smart, they'll keep supporting me the same way they always have. They should believe me when I tell them that scum like Volkoff should be driven out of wrestling forever. And that goes for any other foreigners in the WWF, too.

**Q:** What about your Team Challenge Series squad? As I'm writing this, there were still several weeks left to go in the competition. Don't you care if your team wins? After all, there's a million-dollar purse waiting for whichever team emerges



“

**I'm not going to be happy until I drive all the foreign maggots out of wrestling forever.**

”

victorious.

**A:** That's great. But there are things much more important than money in this great land of ours. There's honor. There's freedom. And, most importantly, there's the American way. Always remember these words, maggot: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America . . .

**Q:** I know the pledge of allegiance, Sarge.

**A:** *Stand up* when you say it, boy! And to the republic for which it stands! One nation! Under God! Indivisible! With liberty and justice for all!

**Q:** I think you're going crazy. Thanks for the interview, Sarge, but I think I better get out of here.

**A:** Damn right you better. You're dismissed, maggot. □



Photos by David Fitzgerald

*Everyone expected The Orient Express, Pat Tanaka and Akio Sato, to be top contenders to the WWF World tag team title by now. But their manager, Mr. Fuji, has them mired in a series of feuds that's taking them nowhere. Now everyone is saying that ...*

# Mr. Fuji Is MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS



By Bob Smith

**I**T ALL SEEMED so perfect. Early this year, The Orient Express—Pat Tanaka and Akio Sato—roared onto the WWF tag team scene. Led by veteran manager Mr. Fuji, the Japanese duo quickly scored a series of upset countout victories over established teams like The Rockers and Demolition.

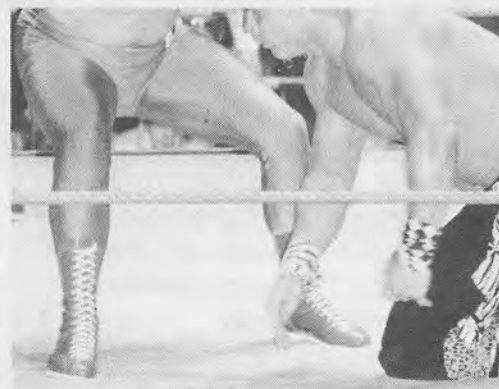
Most experts believed that the Express would be WWF World tag team champions by now, or at least top contenders for that title. Instead, Sato and Tanaka have been stuck in a long string of preliminary matches, as well as a meaningless feud against The Rockers.

Mr. Fuji has struck again.

It is another glaring blot on the track record of one of the most un-

derachieving managers in the sport's history. First, Fuji used The Powers of Pain for his own twisted purposes, turning one of the most awesome tag team forces ever into an oversized pair of preliminary wrestlers.

Now Fuji is on the verge of bringing ruin to The Orient Express, both of whom have enjoyed vast success in the past. Why is it that Fuji can't lead even a pair of ultra-talented wrestlers like Sato and Tanaka to anything close to contend-



Akio Sato (top) and Pat Tanaka (above) are outstanding grapplers, but Mr. Fuji (left) has led them nowhere.

ing status?

"That's what I'd like to know," said "Diamond" Dallas Page, who managed Tanaka and Paul Diamond, then known as Bad Company, to the AWA World tag team title for more than a year from 1988 through early 1989. "Pat and Paul were one of the finest teams of the last decade. And I managed Sato for a short time last year, and I was the guy who teamed him with Pat for the first time. I had no doubt they'd soon be AWA World tag

team champions, but then they decided to go to the WWF. I figured they'd be superstars by now. So what's the problem?"

Indeed, many people are wondering the same thing. The Express got off to a fast start in the WWF this past spring, with their major victory being a countout win over Marty Jannetty and Shawn Michaels at WrestleMania VI. But the scurrilous influence of Fuji was already making itself apparent. The Express won the match when Sato

threw salt into Jannetty's eyes, making it impossible for the Rocker to make his way back into the ring.

And there's the rub. Why would a world-class competitor like Sato suddenly stoop to the cowardly act of throwing salt?

"Fuji tries to mold every wrestler he's ever had in his own image," complained Page. "That's the kind of cheap tactic that Fuji used to use during his wrestling career, so that's the kind of thing that he orders his men to do now. But if



Tanaka and Sato were smart, they'd see that that kind of garbage isn't getting them anywhere."

Page isn't the only one to note the Express' tawdry tactics. WWF officials have reportedly refused to sanction matches against better competition for the Express until they clean up their act. But even with federation officials breathing down his neck, Fuji continues to order his men to keep using such lowbrow maneuvers.

But the worst transgression Fuji has been guilty of is overestimating his own ability. Recently, Sato was forced out of action with an injury. Instead of substituting a qualified wrestler to take Sato's place, the aging, out of shape Fuji insisted on donning the tights himself.

The result? Two crushing losses to The Rockers, both coming as a result of Fuji being humiliated and then pinned. As a result of these defeats, the Express fell totally out of the rankings—and lost their status as a contending team.

"That doesn't surprise me in the least," said Paul Jones, who managed The Powers of Pain—The Warlord and The Barbarian—in the NWA before Fuji managed them in the WWF. "I had molded the Powers into one of the most powerful fighting forces this sport has ever seen. But by the time Fuji got done with them, most people had totally forgotten they were even part of the WWF. Thank God he sold their contracts to Slick and Bobby Heenan, or he could've done irreparable damage to their careers."

What is it about Fuji that forces him to ruin the careers of the men he manages? It could be that Fuji, a former five-time WWF World tag team champion (three times with Prof. Toru Tanaka, twice with Mr. Saito) only knows one way of competing. His stoic, on-the-mat style was effective in the '70s, when he had most of his success. However, today's more nimble, athletic, and high-flying wrestlers can see through most of his flimsy plots



The Orient Express works over Shawn Michaels (top and above right) and Marty Jannetty (above left). One fellow manager has said of Fuji that his managerial style is outdated.

and schemes.

"Everybody has his day, and Fuji's day is definitely over," said Jones. "The only problem is that Fuji just can't get it through his head that his outmoded style doesn't cut it anymore. Sadly, it's going to be up to Sato and Tanaka to take their careers into their own hands and dump Fuji before he sends them right into the preliminaries forever."

It is not too late for Sato and Tanaka to save themselves. On their own, led not by Fuji but by their wealth of martial arts and pure grappling skills, they could certainly become contenders again. All it would take is a few clean victories over some ranked teams.

But with Fuji at the helm, The Orient Express will merely continue traveling the fast track to nowhere. □

# THIS MONTH IN...

## THE Wrestler



Learn why the **LEX LUGER-STING** rivalry is ready to explode again!



Read our exclusive eyewitness report of how **BRUTUS BEEFCAKE'S** face was crushed in a boating accident

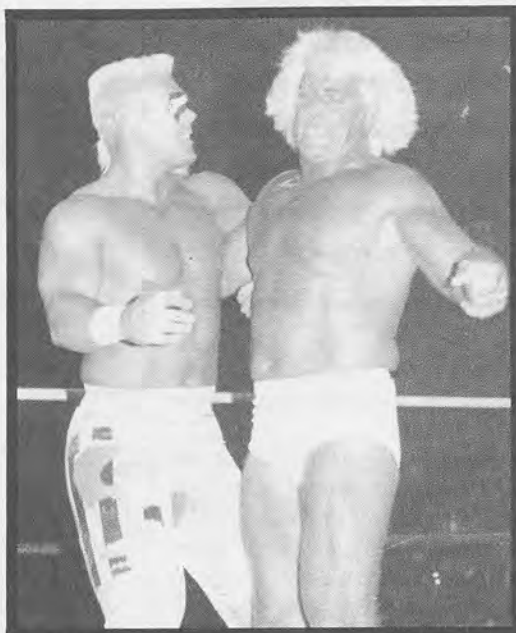
### PLUS . . .

The WWF Intercontinental Title: A "perfect" opportunity for **KERRY VON ERICH . . . RICK & SCOTT STEINER** Agree: "**THE SOUTHERN BOYS** are our favorite tag team!" . . . **JERRY LAWLER & BILL DUNDEE** are trampling the thin line between love and hate . . . "Q & A" interview with **HARLEY RACE**

All this and much more . . .  
in the November 1990 issue of  
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**The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One**

---

# ONE ON ONE



*"You're yesterday's news. I'm the main man in the NWA today, and I'm gonna make this federation the hottest thing this sport has ever seen."*

—Sting

**I**T WAS THE changing of the guard and the ushering in of a new era for the NWA.

When Sting defeated Ric Flair on July 7 at The Great American Bash in Baltimore to become the new NWA World champion, he did much more than become the 43rd man ever to wear the coveted gold belt. In many people's minds, he also ended forever the Flair period of dominance in the NWA.

Flair's record is incredible, having held the NWA World title on six occasions. But in recent years, the "Nature Boy's" title reigns were tainted by outside interference by The Four Horsemen. Finally, with the disqualification rule waived and Sting's friends, The Dudes With Attitudes, stationed at ringside, Sting finally got a fair chance to meet Flair man to man.

It was Sting's night all the way. He was brilliant in his offensive maneuvers, and showed no signs of being held back by the ruptured left patella tendon that kept him out of action for five months. In the end, it was a simple small package that won Sting his first World championship.

But Flair is not going down without a fight. Already, he has petitioned the NWA championship committee for rematches against the colorful Californian. And more importantly, he has ordered the rest of the Horsemen—Arn Anderson, Sid Vicious, and Barry Windham—to try to intimidate Sting at all times. He also has publicly stated that, in addition to regaining the championship, his goal is to cripple Sting all over again.

*Even though the title has changed hands, it is clear that this is one rivalry that will not die easily. And with the hatred these men have for each other, it wasn't hard to get these sworn enemies to trade threats over the phone . . . "One On One."*

#### STING:

Well, if it isn't the ex-champion himself, the six-time loser of the World title. I'm glad I could speak to you on the phone, Ric, because I've got a bit of news for you, pal. Remember that plate on the front of the World title belt that had your name on it? Well, kiss it goodbye, because right now they're at work tacking out my name in gold letters. Isn't that great?

#### RIC FLAIR:

You punk! Do you think putting your name on the belt makes you a big man? Do you really think it means anything? Remember, I'm the man who made that title what it is today. Enjoy it while you can, because you're not gonna have it for long. And *that*, my friend, is a guarantee!

S: I guess I have to agree with you, Ric. You *did* make the title what it is today—an undervalued embarrassment to the NWA and all the wrestlers that ever competed here. So how many times do you think you could get by on non-title matches? And how many times could you get away with letting your Horsemen friends save your hide by interfering for you? Well, those days are over now. Finally, the NWA has a champion

# N ONE



*"I've had to win back my belt many times before, so once more shouldn't be a problem. I'm not through ruling the NWA yet."*

—Ric Flair

that everybody can look up to, and you're talkin' to him.

**RF:** Interference? You wanna talk about interference? Who was it that interfered in our match at the Bash? Your buddy Scott Steiner. I would've pinned you cleanly if Steiner hadn't been where he didn't belong. But I wasn't surprised at all, because as soon as I heard that your pals were being allowed to surround the ring, I knew there'd be trouble. I'm sick and tired of hearing about alleged Horsemen corruption! I'm demanding that the NWA launch a full investigation of your pathetic Dudes With Attitudes. Then again, you've got [NWA Executive Vice President Jim] Herd in your back pocket, so we wouldn't get a fair shake anyway.

**S:** I don't have anybody in my back pocket but the fans, Flair, so stop your whining. Mr. Herd and the rest of the NWA high command have been real patient with you during the last year, and I'm surprised they didn't suspend you long ago. Remember my knee? I've got *you* to thank for that, and for the five hardest months of my life coming back from that injury. You're lucky I didn't try to cripple you the same way during our match, but I'm too much of a sportsman for that.

**RF:** Oh, gosh! Thank you, Mr. Sting, for not trying to hurt me. Gee, I'm so lucky you're such a nice man. Listen, pal, you wanna try and cripple me, give it your best shot. I've been in this sport almost 20 years, and just about ev-

ery top name has tried to put me on the shelf. I don't have a *damn* thing to worry about from you. You're the one who better start making plans for your retirement. Last time it was your knee. Next time . . .

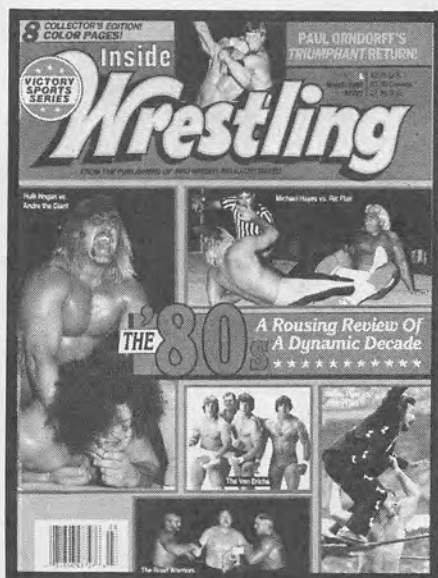
**S:** Hey, there isn't going to be a next time. The key to beating a slug like you is knowing your mindset before the match even starts. Before, I knew you were the kind of guy who would do anything to cheat your way to victory, but I never knew what a lowdown crippler you would try to be. Now, I know what you're all about before I get in the ring with you, and that's why you'll never hurt me again. If your Horsemen are around, I'll just call on the Dudes. And if you get dirty during a match, hey, I know how to play that game, too. Looks like I've got you beaten no matter how hard you try.

**RF:** Hold on a second. When's the first time we wrestled? About two years ago, right? Men with much more skill and experience than you have been watching everything I do in that ring for a lot longer than you, and they haven't even come close to figuring me out. That's precisely why I'm so successful. While it's true that the Horsemen and the Dudes might neutralize each other, when it comes down to one on one, just you and me, I don't think you'll be as lucky as you were at the Bash.

**S:** I knew you were an ex-champion, but I didn't know you were blind, too. Think, Ricky boy, back to last December. Don't you remember me pinning your shoulders to the canvas at Starrcade '89—with a small package? And I beat you again at the Bash—with an inside cradle. You're yesterday's news, Flair. I'm the main man in the NWA today, and I'm going to make this federation the hottest thing this sport has ever seen. All you ever did was drag it down, but those days are over.

**RF:** Hey, I've had to win back my belt—yes, *my* belt—many times before, so once more shouldn't be a problem. I ruled the NWA throughout the '80s, and I'm not through ruling the NWA yet. My days are far from over. Think about it. □





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## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 5)

### WELCOME BACK, MIKE

It's great to see that Mike Rotundo has finally seen the light and become a fan favorite again.

When Rotundo became a rulebreaker and joined forces with Kevin Sullivan a couple of years ago, I thought that was the end of him. I believe I speak for all wrestling fans when I say that we owe a debt of gratitude to the people of Syracuse University for making Mike smarten up.

Mike, if you're reading this, welcome back to the good side. You have been missed.

**DARRELL STEWART**  
 Teiford, Nova Scotia

### STAN THE SLOB

I wish the NWA would ban Stan Hansen from doing any interviews on television. He's disgusting! He always has tobacco juice dripping down his face, and it makes me sick.



Mike Rotundo slams The Iron Sheik. Reader Darrell Stewart is glad Rotundo listened to his friends at Syracuse University and became a fan favorite again.



Stan Hansen's practice of chewing tobacco during interviews disgusts readers Renee Green and Phil Connolly.

I have a suggestion: Put a big red X on the screen over his face when Hansen comes out to talk. Better yet, use that computer scrambling they use on people's faces when they don't want to be identified.

RENEE GREEN  
Tampa, FL

Anybody who needs a reason *not* to use chewing tobacco or pinch tobacco ought to take a look at Stan Hansen. The man is as gross as they come.

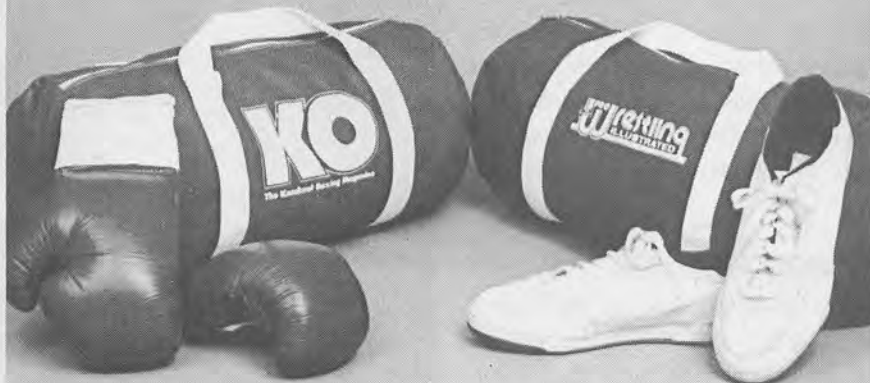
PHIL CONNOLLY  
Dallas

### WHERE IS MUTA?

I wish your magazine would do a story on The Great Muta. Ever since he left the NWA, I've wondered what's happened to him. He was probably the most talented wrestler I've ever seen. Has he returned to Japan?

(Continued on page 48)

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# SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 47)

Has he retired? What's up with him?  
The fans want to know!

STEVE KING  
Los Angeles

[Editor's note: A full-length story on the whereabouts of Muta will be presented in the November 1990 edition of *Sports Review Wrestling*, on sale September 25.]

## THE DOG IS A DOG

Junkyard Dog has to be the biggest idiot in wrestling.

In an interview in your September issue ("Hotseat"), JYD says, "Ric Flair may be a six-time NWA champion, but he ain't so big and bad if you can get him all by himself."

Doesn't JYD understand that Flair didn't care whether he lost when they wrestled? Flair was coasting, like he always did, unless the belt was on the line. So what if JYD pinned Flair in a



The Great Muta's sensational high-flying maneuvers are missed by reader Steve King. Muta was one of the NWA's brightest stars in 1989.

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non-title match. Flair was barely trying!

In a sense, though, JYD is right: Get Flair alone and he can be beaten. Sting proved that at the Great American Bash. Then again, Sting is 100 times the wrestler JYD is—even with a bum knee!

DANNY ALINE  
New York

## WWF GRIPES

It is a pity that a dispute between the WWF and Channel Ten Network Australia has resulted in Australian wrestling fans being deprived of wrestling action on television.

As I understand it, the WWF is demanding more money than our television networks are able to afford for the rights to broadcast *Superstars Of Wrestling* and other related programs.

The net effect of this is that the viewer is missing out.

Is this what they mean by the saying, "the power of the WWF"?

JOHN CAMPO  
Dural, Australia

I don't like the way that WWF promoters are manipulating their World championship belt. In my mind, a championship belt represents the glory and the wrestling skills of the current champion and all the champions that held it before.

Seeing the WWF changing the color of the belt in a way to fit in with the Warrior's flamboyant costumes takes away from the respect we should be giving it.

REGIS FERLAND  
Sainte-Marie, Quebec □

# BACK ISSUES OF



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**February 1982**/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.  
**March 1982**/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.  
**April 1982**/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.  
**May 1982**/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.  
**June 1982**/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.  
**July 1982**/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.  
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**April 1984**/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.

**May 1984**/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.  
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**November 1986**/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.  
**December 1986**/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.  
**January 1987**/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.  
**February 1987**/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.  
**March 1987**/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.  
**April 1987**/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.  
**May 1987**/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.  
**June 1987**/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.  
**July 1987**/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.  
**August 1987**/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.  
**September 1987**/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.  
**October 1987**/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.  
**November 1987**/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.  
**December 1987**/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.  
**January 1988**/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.  
**February 1988**/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.  
**March 1988**/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.  
**April 1988**/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.  
**May 1988**/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.  
**June 1988**/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

**July 1988**/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.  
**August 1988**/Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk.  
**October 1988**/Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.  
**December 1988**/Stories include: Powers of Pain, Ultimate, Flair, Piper.  
**January 1989**/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Sting, Arn, Kerry-Lawler.  
**February 1989**/Stories include: Hogan-Bossman, Tully & Arn, Warriors-Windham-Sting.  
**March 1989**/Stories include: Hennig, Midnights-Midnights, Fuller & Golden, Ultimate.  
**May 1989**/Stories include: Hogan, Steiner, Morton, Bad Co., Taylor.  
**June 1989**/Stories include: Hogan-Savage, Luger, Steamboat-Flair.  
**July 1989**/Stories include: Savage, Windham, Kerry, Demolition, Sting.  
**August 1989**/Stories include: Hulkamania, Steamboat, Rude, Cornette.  
**September 1989**/Stories include: Savage-Hogan, Luger, Mascaras, Rhodes.  
**October 1989**/Stories include: Hall & Pillman & Vicious, Hennig, Swats vs. Warriors, Rhodes.  
**November 1989**/Stories include: Elizabeth, Sting, Luger, Paul E., Mascaras.  
**December 1989**/Stories include: Rhodes, Flair, Hogan-Zeus, Embry.  
**January 1990**/Stories include: Hogan, Sting-Flair, Roberts-DiBiase.  
**February 1990**/Stories include: Warriors-Skyscrapers, Zenk, Rude-Piper.  
**April 1990**/Stories include: Starrcade '89, Ultimate, Rhodes, Sawyer.  
**May 1990**/Stories include: Hogan-Ultimate, Luger, Woman, Lawler, LPWA.  
**June 1990**/Stories include: Sting, Saito-Zbyszko, Earthquake, Ultimate, Jarrett.  
**July 1990**/Stories include: Steiners, Sting, Warrior & Hogan, Earthquake.  
**August 1990**/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Hogan, Warrior, Taylor.  
**September 1990**/Stories include: Hogan, Duggan, JYD, Adams, Horsemen.

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## DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 8)

did anyone think that when he won the title in 1984? Probably not, but don't you think every champion deserves our respect, whether they're good or bad? The Warrior had the guts and determination to win the WWF heavy-weight title from Hogan. It was a hard-fought battle, but he succeeded.

Like it or not, The Ultimate Warrior is the WWF's new heavy-weight champion. I have a feeling he's going to be the champ for a long time.

You say the Warrior is just another man with a belt. Rosenbaum, you're not being fair. At least he's champion. He won it fair and square and he deserves everyone's respect.

As far as I know, the only time the Warrior lost a match was at WrestleMania V, and he lost only because Bobby Heenan interfered. If Rude thinks he can beat the Warrior for the title, he's only kidding himself.

Lou Thesz was quoted as saying the Warrior is "merely a second-rate imitation of Hogan." Who says the Warrior even wants to be a second Hogan? Certainly not the Warrior! Certainly not me, or anyone else who truly believes in the Warrior! Who would even want to be Hogan but Hogan? Why can't you let The Ultimate Warrior be himself? He's truly unique.

I'm really disappointed in Sting and Rick Steamboat for what they said about The Ultimate Warrior. They are so jealous because the Warrior has a major title and they do not. The way Sting talks about the Warrior, he must think the Warrior is a total idiot! Well, he's not.

In your article, you said the Warrior had to struggle at Wres-

tleMania VI to win the match. If you remember correctly, Hogan had to struggle a lot, too. The match kept going back and forth. You said Warrior is easily outsmarted. In WrestleMania VI, Warrior outsmarted Hogan at the very end of the match. When Hogan was going for his legdrop, Warrior was smart enough to roll out of the way.

The comparisons are unfair. Why do you insist on picking on him? Is everyone jealous because



The Ultimate Warrior has dominated Curt Hennig, but he has not yet established himself as a truly great champion.

Warrior won the title in such high fashion? You should apologize to the Warrior in print!

A few points.

First of all, no apology is in order. Hulk Hogan is one of the greatest champions of all time. The point of the article was that the Warrior will not live up to that level. That's not a put-down.

As for Hogan's "god" status, wrestling journalists would be the last to call Hogan a god. In fact, these magazines have often been criticized by fans for criticizing Hogan too much.

Next, anybody who looks at The Ultimate Warrior and doesn't

see Hulk Hogan just can't see straight. These men are as similar as two wrestlers can be. Their fans are similar. Their ring styles are similar.

Next, the Warrior *does* deserve everyone's respect as a champion who won his title in the proper manner. Nobody has ever said otherwise. The Hogan-Warrior match at WrestleMania VI was a classic. Both men struggled mightily; either could have won.

More. Lou Thesz might have

been a little off-base, but let's face it: Every muscleman since Hogan has been imitating Hogan. The Warrior isn't a second-rate imitation of Hogan, but he's clearly inferior. Time will tell. He is certainly not "truly unique."

Finally, Betty, your example of how the Warrior outsmarted Hogan makes no sense at all. Moving out of the way of Hogan's legdrop didn't take brains; it's the only possible move. If you saw 302 pounds flying toward you, what would you do? You'd move out of the way. In this case, brains are no factor.

Well, Betty, the entire staff of *Inside Wrestling* sincerely hopes you enjoyed your Fourth of July. □



# BACK ISSUES OF

# THE Wrestler

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**June 1982/Stories include:** Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.  
**July 1982/Stories include:** Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.  
**August 1982/Stories include:** Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.  
**September 1982/Stories include:** Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.  
**October 1982/Stories include:** Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.  
**November 1982/Stories include:** Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.  
**December 1982/Stories include:** Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.  
**January 1983/Stories include:** Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.  
**February 1983/Stories include:** Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.  
**April 1983/Stories include:** Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.  
**May 1983/Stories include:** Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.  
**June 1983/Stories include:** Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.  
**July 1983/Stories include:** Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.  
**August 1983/Stories include:** Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.  
**September 1983/Stories include:** Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Brisco.  
**October 1983/Stories include:** Race, Sawyer, Brisco, Bass.  
**November 1983/Stories include:** Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.  
**December 1983/Stories include:** Mascara, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.  
**March 1984/Stories include:** Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.  
**April 1984/Stories include:** Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.  
**May 1984/Stories include:** Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.  
**June 1984/Stories include:** Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.  
**July 1984/Stories include:** Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

**August 1984/Stories include:** Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.  
**September 1984/Stories include:** Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.  
**October 1984/Stories include:** Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.  
**November 1984/Stories include:** Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.  
**December 1984/Stories include:** Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.  
**January 1985/Stories include:** Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.  
**February 1985/Stories include:** Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.  
**March 1985/Stories include:** Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.  
**April 1985/Stories include:** Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.  
**May 1985/Stories include:** Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.  
**June 1985/Stories include:** Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.  
**July 1985/Stories include:** Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.  
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**October 1985/Stories include:** Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.  
**November 1985/Stories include:** Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.  
**December 1985/Stories include:** Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.  
**February 1986/Stories include:** Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.  
**March 1986/Stories include:** Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.  
**April 1986/Stories include:** Von Erich, Rude, Luger, Hogan, Magnum T.A.  
**May 1986/Stories include:** Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.  
**June 1986/Stories include:** Luger, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.  
**July 1986/Stories include:** King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.  
**August 1986/Stories include:** Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.  
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**October 1986/Stories include:** Nikita-Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.  
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**December 1986/Stories include:** Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.  
**January 1987/Stories include:** Heenan, Garvins, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.  
**February 1987/Stories include:** Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.  
**March 1987/Stories include:** Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.  
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**August 1987/Stories include:** Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.  
**September 1987/Stories include:** Koloffs, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.  
**October 1987/Stories include:** Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.  
**November 1987/Stories include:** Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.  
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**January 1988/Stories include:** Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.  
**February 1988/Stories include:** Flair, Andre-Hogan, New Breed, Kerry.  
**March 1988/Stories include:** Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.  
**April 1988/Stories include:** Bonus 4-page color section! Starrcade, Survivor Series, World Class.  
**May 1988/Stories include:** Horsemen, Hogan, Flair, Fantastics, DiBiase.  
**June 1988/Stories include:** Sting-Flair, DiBiase, Kerry, Nikita, Zenk.  
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**September 1988/Stories include:** Duggan vs. Andre, Hogan, Windham.  
**October 1988/Stories include:** Rhodes, Fantastics, Hennig, Roberts-Rude.  
**November 1988/Stories include:** Midnight Ex., DiBiase, Bossman, Brody.  
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**July 1990/Stories include:** Poffo, Dusty-Savage, Luger-Flair, Doom, Blanchard.  
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## THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 14)

Descent occurs gradually as the boat slows down and the parasailor lands into the arms of those in charge of the ride.

Beefcake was steadying the rope connecting the sail to the boat when the boat unexpectedly took off. The boat's thrust sent the parasailor's knees square into Beefcake's face, causing massive damage to the wrestler's nose, cheekbones, and eye sockets. Fortunately, it appears that Beefcake was spared any brain or nerve damage.

Even the most optimistic reports, however, remove Beefcake from the wrestling ring for a minimum of a year. And that's if he didn't sustain any permanent tissue damage and if doctors feel his broken face can resume the rigors of his profession.

My initial reaction to the injury was sorrow at the likely end to the career of a colorful, if not especially talented, grappler. My second reaction was this: Why do wrestlers put themselves in such precarious positions? Granted, parasailing is a benign pursuit and you can attribute Beefcake's injury more to bad luck than anything else, but what about non-wrestling injuries suffered by other wrestlers seeking further thrills? Would Magnum T.A. still be wrestling today if his car were a Volvo and not a Porsche? Would Kerry Von Erich have full mobility (and maybe another world title) if his leg hadn't been permanently damaged in a motorcycle crash? What about Tully Blanchard's shattered Achilles tendon obtained during a game of basketball?

The number of wrestlers hurt in bar brawls, car crashes, and other physical pursuits is staggering. One would think that after leaving the ring, a professional wrestler

would want to retire to a calmer hobby, say stamp-collecting or Nintendo.

But, like many dedicated professionals, wrestlers can't seem to leave their work at the office. What makes them great competitors in the ring is what computer hack/wrestling fanatic Linda Schwinn calls "the grapplers' need to interface physically with the world around them at all times."

Wrestlers don't resemble their colleagues in other sports who are contractually prohibited from dangerous off-season pursuits. Heck, the Chicago Bulls frown on Michael Jordan playing golf!

Wrestlers are more like screen stars whose intensity can't be confined on- or off-camera. The way Tom Cruise and Paul Newman race power boats. The manic and destructive way both sets of professionals party. The need to experience the exhilarating pace of life 24 hours a day is what sets pro wrestlers apart.

Unfortunately, in too many cases the reckless pace takes a tragic toll.

**Good News: Sting recovers in time to win NWA World title.**

Sting's sappy, pandering, baby-smooching, high-fiving championship antics are already beginning to turn my stomach. He's like an elongated Bob Backlund with mascara; it looks like they even went to the same barber. However, one cannot help but be overwhelmed by his recuperative powers. Sting's particular injury, a ruptured patella tendon, has ended hundreds of promising careers in sport.

"It's not that I'm afraid of not coming back," Sting said during rehabilitation. "I'm afraid of coming back 75 percent. That would

kill me."

Indeed, words we can all understand. Imagine if, when I sat down to write this column, I suddenly had but half the words I knew at my disposal.

Not to fear: It was the real Sting who trounced Ric Flair at the Great American Bash back in July to capture the NWA title. The knee in question survived turnbuckle drops, bodyslams, and the dreaded Flair figure-four. It remains to be seen, however, if we



While he's glad that Sting won the NWA title from Ric Flair, Eddie Ellner is turned off by Sting's "kissing up" to the fans.

can survive a Sting title reign of any great length. For the man who dedicated his victory to "all the little Stingers out there," we can only hope that now that he has fully recovered, one of the Horsemen is able to again put him out of our misery.

**Mediocre News: Hogan faces Earthquake at SummerSlam.**

By the time you read this, Hulk Hogan will have avenged yet another career-threatening set of injuries by defeating Earthquake at the WWF's SummerSlam. Since I prefer Hogan in the ring wrestling, where his blemishes can't be edited, as opposed to watching him slobber and slither across movie screens, I'm glad to see him back. After all, this column can't live on Dusty Rhodes alone. ☐

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## ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 16)

keep him calm, because when Ted gets mad he forgets to tip."

DiBiase's strategy is having its desired effect. Sapphire pays more attention to her jewels than to Dusty's matches. Ringside cameras have caught her stroking her necklace hypnotically, lost in a world of fantasy and admiration.

"Sapphire, she likes her jewels," the locker room source admitted. "And Dusty won't rest until he finds out for sure who is behind it."

My advice to Sapphire is to beware of geeks bearing gifts. I can't count the number of times attempts have been made to bribe me into granting favorable coverage in my stories and columns.

To entice me into dinner one night with his mother and The Midnight Express (and report on them favorably in the next issue), Jim Cornette allowed me *carte blanche* in the Saks Fifth Avenue designer section. I spent \$4,000 on beautiful formal gowns, then returned them the next day and donated the money to charity.

Another time, Ric Flair sent roses to my door every morning for two straight weeks—then asked if I would help him and The Four Horsemen develop a public relations campaign.

Other attempts at winning my favor have been more subtle but no less insidious. As a woman, a smile and a dinner invitation from a wrestler you actually like is difficult to turn down. As a journalist, it simply becomes a non-issue. Since it is human nature to expect something in return, you don't accept favors from *anyone*.

Today, Sapphire is a woman mesmerized by luxury; tomorrow, as she grows accustomed and dependent upon her mystery gifts, Ted DiBiase will play upon her

desires and entice her to turn against Dusty.

I don't mean to presume, but Sapphire appears simple in her tastes and fashion. Whether this is by choice or by economic circumstance is anyone's guess, but she just doesn't appear to me to be the type of person who shops on Fifth Avenue. Gifts that repre-

free to children to get them hooked. Once hooked, he owns them.

Sapphire fell for Dusty Rhodes because he has remained throughout the years a humble servant of the sport, a mouthpiece for the common man. His attraction lies in his integrity and devotion to his fans and to his sport.



DiBiase's resentment of Dusty goes back to their pre-WWF days. The "Million-Dollar Man" probably thinks that by softening up Sapphire, he'll get to Dusty quicker.

sent chump change to DiBiase are coveted by Sapphire.

Every woman wants to feel that somewhere out there is a dark, handsome stranger in hot pursuit. All the more romantic if he sends outrageously expensive gifts. DiBiase is a mastermind at using people's weakness for money and luxury as a means to manipulate them. In that sense, the "Million-Dollar Man" is no different than a drug pusher offering his wares

Money buys him nice cowboy boots, but it is not the grease that oils his machinery.

DiBiase's "money talks" way of life is the antithesis of Dusty's. He sees Sapphire as another disposable acquisition to help him in his quest for power and notoriety.

Hopefully, Sapphire will learn that the real jewel in her life weighs over 300 pounds and still shines brighter than any store-bought trinket. □

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## JEANNIE & TONI ADAMS

(Continued from page 29)



Jeannie is so obsessed with harming Toni that she dumped her off a stretcher! USWA officials are now considering permanently banning the women from arenas.

Toni said.

And she is disturbed that Chris' first marriage is getting in the way of their happiness.

"Jeannie has no right," Toni said. "Their marriage is a thing of the past. If Jeannie can't deal with that, it's her problem. Why doesn't she just stick with Austin? They were made for each other."

According to Toni, Jeannie was rarely a topic of conversation with Chris before this past spring.

"She never came up," Toni said. "I respected Chris' desire to put that part of his life behind him. He doesn't know everything about me and I don't know everything about him. But what I do know is that he's a loving, caring, trusting man."

Jeannie, on the other hand, says that the facts, when revealed, will speak for themselves.

"There's a side to Chris that Toni's never seen, but she'll see it eventually," Jeannie said. "People just can't change that much. Chris

has an evil side to him, and there's not a woman in the world that can deal with it. But he never paid the price for what he did to me, and that's something I plan on changing."

Perhaps we'll never know why Jeannie is going about her revenge in this way. Her war is with Chris, not Toni. A court of law might be the best place to solve their problems. So why has Jeannie brought this war into the wrestling ring?

"Because that's where it will hurt him the most," Jeannie said. "He has an image with the fans that is as far from reality as can be. People need to see the *real* Chris Adams."

Do they? Or should Chris be allowed to put his past behind him? He is happily married to a beautiful, caring woman. Let them live on in happiness.

Jeannie, of course, won't let that happen.

And the USWA can't do a damn thing about it. ☐

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 November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.  
 December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.  
 January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.  
 February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.  
 April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.  
 May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.  
 June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.  
 July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Shepherders, Backwinkel, Bulldogs.



**AUGUST 1986**

August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.  
 September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Luger, Dundee, UWF tourney.  
 October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Backwinkel, Gordy, Adams.  
 November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.  
 December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourney.  
 January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.  
 February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Luger, 1987 Datebook.  
 March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.  
 April 1987/1986 in Pictures, Kevin Von, Flair, Rich, Hennig-Backwinkel.  
 May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.  
 June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.  
 July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.  
 August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.  
 September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.  
 October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Backwinkel, Western States tourney.  
 November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Shepherders, Condrey.  
 December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card.  
 January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.

February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook.  
 March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.  
 April 1988/1987 in Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orion.  
 May 1988/Hawk-Flair, Andre-Hogan, Dangerously, Duggan, Mike George.  
 June 1988/Luger-Tully, DiBiase, Adams, NWA New York invasion.  
 July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourney, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider.  
 August 1988/Luger and Sting win Crockett Cup, Savage-DiBiase, Nasty Boys, Ultimate Warrior.  
 September 1988/Predictions Through 1998, Williams, Rhodes, Bad Company, greatest Garden matches.  
 October 1988/Midnight Rockers, Sting, Taylor, Koloff, Hot Young Lions.  
 November 1988/R&R Express, Honky Tonk, Von Erichs, Great American Bash.  
 December 1988/Warriors, Samoan SWAT Team, Hart, Andre, Presidential Wrestlers.  
 January 1989/Jake-Cheryl-Rude, Sting, Lawler, Flair, Savage's career.  
 February 1989/The Champions in '89, Duggan, Roberts, 1989 datebook.  
 April 1989/Starrcade '88, Savage-Hogan, Funk-Mulligan, Heenan, Abdullah.  
 May 1989/Royal Rumble, WrestleMania, Rhodes, Lawler, Horsemen.  
 June 1989/Chi-Town Rumble, Hogan-Towers, R&R Express, Rougeaus.  
 July 1989/WrestleMania V, Sting, Steamboat, Martel vs. Rude, Embury.  
 August 1989/Luger & Sting, Ultimate, Flair's personal photos, Bulldogs.  
 September 1989/Duggan, Wrestle War, Rhodes, Flair-Steamboat, Japan.  
 October 1989/Great American Bash, Piper-Ventura, Savage-Hogan.  
 November 1989/Hogan's toughest matches, Snuka, Sting, Skyscrapers.  
 January 1990/Savage, Woman-Steiner, Vicious, fastest wrestlers.  
 February 1990/Piper, Kerry, Muta & Luger vs. Flair, Datebook.  
 April 1990/Starrcade '89, Roberts, Williams, Diamond, Five to watch.  
 May 1990/Hogan, Royal Rumble, Piper, Zbyszko-Sammartino, Nord.  
 June 1990/Hogan vs. Warrior, Wrestle War '90, Saito, Andre, Paul E.  
 July 1990/WrestleMania VI, Cornette, Sullivan vs. Norman, Ole.  
 August 1990/Ultimate Warrior, Blanchard, Windham, NWA returns to NY.  
 September 1990/Legion of Doom, Luger, Haynes, Gossett, wrestling's far side.

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## SID VICIOUS

(Continued from page 31)

*Twenty-six seconds.*

"I wasn't ready to come back quite yet," said Vicious after the match. "I was favoring my right side, because I wasn't 100 percent confident that I was healed. I was really jumping the gun."

*Twenty-six seconds.*

"What a disappointment," said a perturbed Anderson. "This was our chance to once again prove Horsemen dominance in front of a national television audience. It was downright embarrassing what happened. It won't happen again. Believe me, it will *never* happen again."

*Twenty-six seconds.*

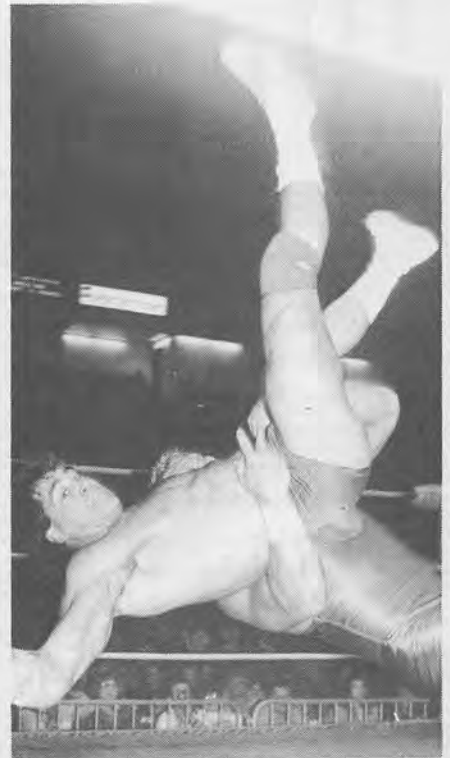
"It wasn't so much that Vicious lost a match," said Flair, who relinquished his World title to Sting at the July 7 Great American Bash. "It's just that he lost it to Luger, who is one of the biggest enemies of the Horsemen. And if there's anybody we hate as much as Sting, it's got to that ingrate Luger."

It has been widely speculated that the Horsemen are losing patience with their most powerful member. *Inside Wrestling* has learned from sources that Ole Anderson has given Vicious an ultimatum: Win the U.S. title from Luger, or be removed from the Horsemen.

"The Horsemen's affairs are our business and no one else's," grumbled Anderson when asked about the win-or-get-out order to Vicious. "But I will say that we're priming Sid for another series of matches against Luger. And if there's any man in the sport who should be Luger's master, it's Vicious. There's really no excuse why Sid shouldn't be able to beat him."

Vicious agrees.

"I was injured before, but now I'm ready to go full-throttle," he insists. "Luger will be like putty in my powerful hands. I have to beat that bum, because winning the U.S. title



Vicious has wrestled viciously against Paul Orndorff (above left) and Tom Zenk (above right), but Zenk has had his moments (below). That concerns the Horsemen.



is my first step toward superstardom."

But when he was questioned about whether the Horsemen *ordered* him to beat Luger, Vicious had nothing to say. Luger, a former

Horseman, has no doubts that Anderson *has* ordered Vicious to beat him or face the consequences.

"That's definitely the way of the Horsemen," he laughed. "It was that way when I was a member. I

was told that if I couldn't carry my weight and bring a title home to the organization, then I wasn't worth keeping around. I'm sure that Sid is facing that same kind of pressure right now. The Horsemen's bully tactics are not limited to the opposition."

Vicious has slowly worked his way back into shape, taking part mainly in six-man tag team matches against members of The Dudes With Attitudes. He also has wrestled in series of singles matches against Tom Zenk. Windham, who has teamed with Vicious frequently, likes what he has seen thus far.

"Sid is one of the most talented big men I've ever known," insists Windham. "Not only is he powerful, but he's as mean as they come. He's got a real killer instinct that's missing from most young guys today. If you ask me, Luger is a marked man. Things'll be different the next time they wrestle. They'd better be."

That last comment told volumes about the current Horsemen attitude toward Vicious. Now at the lowest point in their history, they desperately need for all their members to become champions again. And in the case of Vicious, it looks as if their patience is running out.

"That's why Sid will never beat me," insists Luger. "He's going to be so afraid of failure that he'll never be truly at 100 percent when he wrestles me. And with a bunch of shiftless cowards like Flair, the Andersons, and Windham telling him what to do, the poor guy will be so psyched out that he won't know which way is up. In that regard, I'm really looking forward to his challenge. Hey, I always enjoy scoring quick victories!"

It was only a year ago that the wrestling world was hailing Vicious as one of the hottest newcomers anywhere. But now he is on the brink of absolute failure.

If he topples over the edge, the biggest Horseman will be feeling mighty small. ☐

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## RIC FLAIR

(Continued from page 33)

just when Flair seems all but finished, he bounces back with a performance worthy of superlatives.

That's what Flair's career has been all about.

This time, however, things could be different for Flair. There are several factors working against him:

- Sting is one of the finest young wrestlers in the sport, a superb all-around wrestler with a seemingly inexhaustible supply of energy. Although he recently came off of the disabled list, he is back in peak condition.

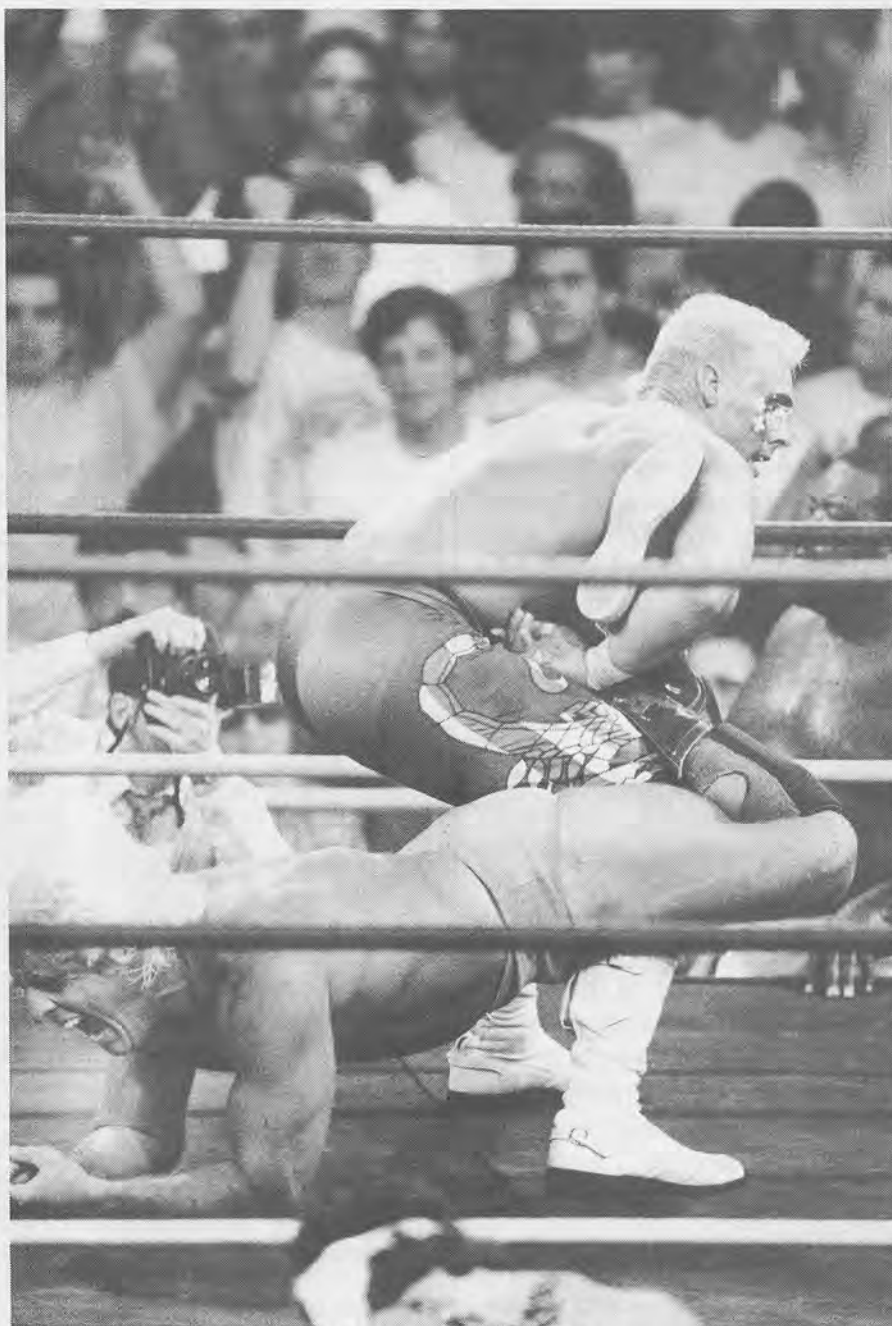
- Lex Luger, the U.S. champion, figures to eventually give Sting a solid run for the title. Although Flair will get the bulk of the title shots initially, Luger, as U.S. champ, is the number-one contender to the belt.

- Flair is not the wrestler he once was. He has become totally dependent upon the outside interference of The Four Horsemen. It has been estimated that Flair won less than 10 percent of his matches by undisputed pinfall during his last reign. That is a startling figure.

"I've always done what I have to do," Flair said. "Let's see what Sting does. When you're the champ, everybody's after you. Everybody wants a piece of what you've got, and you've got to protect it in every possible way.

"Yeah, Sting shocked me, and he has a right to be proud of what he did, but now he's going to find out what it's like to be champion," Flair continued. "He's gonna have to get into that ring every night and be the man. Let's see him do what I did. Dusty Rhodes could never handle it, Ronnie Garvin went into hiding, and Rick Steamboat learned pretty quickly what it was all about, too. My guess is that Sting's gonna start feeling the pressure."

Indeed, Sting is already feeling the pressure of being champion. But he said Flair is not chief among his concerns.



One of the reasons Flair will find it difficult to regain the belt is age. Nearly 20 years as a pro have taken a lot out of the six-time former titlist.

"Naturally, I'm going to have to beat the former champ," Sting said. "But if I wrestle up to my level and he wrestles up to his level, and without interference from the Horsemen, he can't beat me."

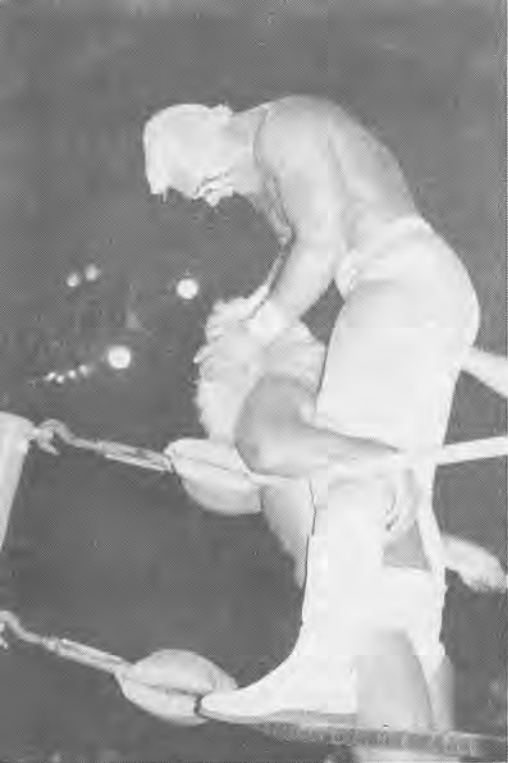
Sting's attitude about Flair is a typical demonstration of how the former champion's star has faded.

Wrestlers no longer fear Flair; they fear The Four Horsemen. The figure-four leglock is no longer the dangerous finishing move it once was.

Sting, in fact, used the figure-four on Flair at the Bash.

"Flair has slowed down," Thesz said. "It's not that he can't move around the ring, it's just that his coordination is a trifle off. You know, the time it takes for his body to do what his mind tells it to do. I think all the years, all the injuries, and all the matches have finally begun to take their toll.

"This shouldn't be taken as a knock against Flair," Thesz contin-



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Sting vows that Flair will never win the title back from him, and as long as Sting and his Dudes With Attitudes can neutralize the Horsemen, he may be right.

ued. "He's been a great champion and, despite the Horsemen, he's been a credit to the sport. It's just that everybody gets older, and everybody slows down. Flair won't always be a contender for the title, just like Race wasn't, either."

And here's another point: Just before press time, Flair squelched rumors that had him headed for the WWF. Still, Kerry Von Erich squelched similar rumors, then changed his mind a few days later.

If Flair goes to the WWF, a seventh NWA World title reign would certainly be out of the question. That's a good reason why he wouldn't go, but here's a reason why he would go: the opportunity to win world titles in two federations.

"I'm not going," Flair said. "I'm going to win that belt back from Sting, and I'll tell you one thing: I'll never break Race's record. I'm going to win my seventh title and I'll keep it until I retire. I don't want eight. My lucky number is seven."

Right now, he's stuck on six.

And with Luger and Sting ushering in a new era of NWA wrestling, it's an unenviable position to be in. □

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# HULK HOGAN

(Continued from page 35)



Hogan's summer vacation may have been forced by Earthquake, but it gave the former champion a chance to rest and reevaluate his career goals.

gan's. "Aside from Brutus Beefcake's injury, which was a terrible personal tragedy for Hogan, he had a chance to look inside of himself and do things he had never done before. He had a chance to relax."

And, perhaps as importantly, he learned that his fans will always be there, even if he isn't World champion.

Take this item that appeared in *The National Sports Daily*.

"Tugboat suggested ... if the 'Hulkster' knew how many good Americans cared, he would merely take a summer vacation from the sport rather than leave it forever. Accordingly, the WWF took a post office box in Venice, California, and asked Hulkamaniacs to drop His Royal Highness a word or two. Incredibly, more than 350,000 cards and letters have poured in to Venice, a number that compares unfavorably only with the amount of mail Santa Claus gets. And the letters were not in vain. The Hulk will be back! ... Love conquers all."

Hogan's summer vacation, as *The National* called it, proved more than ever that he is the most popular wrestler in the sport. It proved that Hogan is, indeed, the WWF, and the

federation can't do without him.

Over the summer months, attendance at WWF cards dipped sharply. The excitement level at the cards themselves was decreased. Fans reveled in the Warrior's title reign, and his incredible post-WrestleMania pin streak, but something

was missing.

Hogan was missing.

"Don't think he didn't realize that," the friend said. "Listen, Hulk wants more than anyone for the WWF to do well, with him or without him. But Hulk is human and it had to be gratifying for him to see the effect his absence had on attendance."

Hogan's return at SummerSlam '90 in a tag team match with Tugboat against Earthquake and Dino Bravo was expected to fix the WWF's attendance figures. Nonetheless, at press time, there was no indication Hogan had any intention of challenging the Warrior for the World title.

"He's happy," the friend said. "He's going to see what life is like without the belt. Last time, he really wanted the belt back because he didn't think he should have lost it in the first place. This time, he realizes he lost the belt fair and square and now he's going to be content to do his own thing."



Hogan is comfortable with Warrior as champion, knowing that a good man is defending the title against the federation's evildoers.

Hogan's main concern is driving Earthquake out of the WWF. He believes that Earthquake poses a serious threat to the well-being of the other wrestlers, and to the integrity of the federation. Hogan will also do everything in his power to reduce Brother Love's influence in the WWF.



Once Hogan gets back in the fight against Earthquake, the pain of his injuries should diminish, but his anger for 'Quake won't.

As for the Warrior, Hogan recently reiterated his support for the new champion. Hogan believes the Warrior is best fitted to carry on his message.

"Hogan is comfortable with the Warrior as champ," WWF expert Thomas Pilliard said. "In Warrior, it's almost as if the same man is carrying it on for him. Let's face it: Hulk Hogan is a very happy man right now."

He seems more relaxed and focused. His goals are clear. He is comfortable with his legacy. Hogan realizes he has nothing left to prove.

There is, of course, his competitive desire, which means Hogan might decide to shoot for a third world title.

But if that doesn't happen, if that goal isn't achieved, Hogan will finish his career knowing he is one of the greatest wrestlers in the sport's history.

That's reason enough for anyone to be happy. ☐

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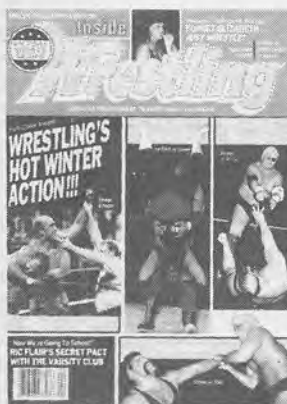
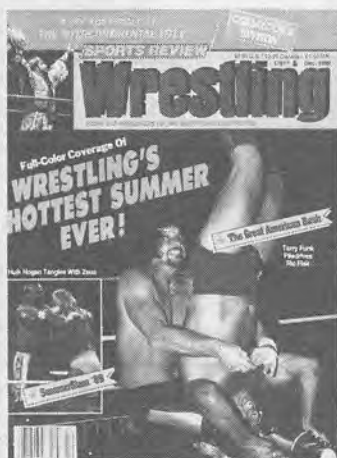
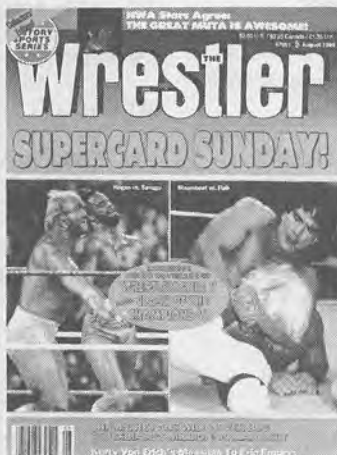
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# INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

## TOP 15

- 1—**ULTIMATE WARRIOR**  
(1) WWF World champion
- 2—**STING**  
(-) NWA World champion
- 3—**LEX LUGER**  
(3) U.S. champion

- 4—**CURT HENNIG**  
(4) WWF I-C champion
- 5—**RIC FLAIR**  
(2) No. 2 contender: NWA title
- 6—**RICK RUDE**  
(5) No. 2 contender: WWF title
- 7—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**  
(7) AWA World champion

- 8—**ARN ANDERSON**  
(8) NWA TV champion
- 9—**THE SNOWMAN**  
(-) USWA champion
- 10—**SCOTTY THE BODY**  
(9) PNW champion
- 11—**EARTHQUAKE**  
(11) No. 4 contender: WWF title

- 12—**MARK CALLOUS**  
(-) No. 1 contender: U.S. title
- 13—**VIC STEAMBOAT**  
(-) ICW champion
- 14—**JOHN TATUM**  
(15) USWA Southwestern champ
- 15—**ROBERT FULLER**  
(-) NAWA champion

## NWA

- 1—**STING**  
(3) 260, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**LEX LUGER**  
(2) 268, Chicago, IL
- 3—**RIC FLAIR**  
(1) 243, Minneapolis, MN

- 4—**MARK CALLOUS**  
(4) 320, Dallas, TX
- 5—**ARN ANDERSON**  
(5) 249, Minneapolis, MN
- 6—**JUNKYARD DOG**  
(6) 305, Charlotte, NC
- 7—**PAUL ORNDORFF**  
(7) 253, Brandon, FL

- 8—**BARRY WINDHAM**  
(9) 263, Sweetwater, TX
- 9—**SID VICIOUS**  
(-) 318, West Memphis, AK
- 10—**MIKE ROTUNDO**  
(13) 245, Syracuse, NY
- 11—**TOMMY RICH**  
(8) 248, Hendersonville, TN

- 12—**BUDDY LANDELL**  
(11) 236, Los Angeles, CA
- 13—**DOUG FURNAS**  
(12) 265, Commerce, OK
- 14—**BIG VAN VADER**  
(-) 375, Denver, CO
- 15—**HARLEY RACE**  
(-) 268, Kansas City, MO

## WWF

- 1—**ULTIMATE WARRIOR**  
(1) 280, Queens, NY
- 2—**CURT HENNIG**  
(2) 235, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—**RICK RUDE**  
(3) 246, Robbinsdale, MN

- 4—**EARTHQUAKE**  
(4) 462, Montreal, Quebec
- 5—**TUGBOAT**  
(6) 407, Pittsburgh, PA
- 6—**DINO BRAVO**  
(12) 256, Montreal, Quebec
- 7—**TITO SANTANA**  
(-) 245, Toluca, Mexico

- 8—**BIG BOSSMAN**  
(7) 358, Cobb County, GA
- 9—**JAKE ROBERTS**  
(10) 246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 10—**BAD NEWS BROWN**  
(14) 280, New York, NY
- 11—**TED DiBIASE**  
(13) 247, Omaha, NB

- 12—**THE BARBARIAN**  
(-) 295, New York, NY
- 13—**NIKOLAI VOLKOFF**  
(-) 280, Moscow, Russia
- 14—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**  
(15) 280, Glens Falls, NY
- 15—**KERRY VON ERICH**  
(-) 260, Denton, TX

## AWA

- 1—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**  
(1) 248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2—**THE TROOPER**  
(5) 243, Charlotte, NC
- 3—**BARON VON RASCHKE**  
(4) 271, Berlin, Germany

- 4—**BRAD RHEINGANS**  
(12) 248, Appleton, MN
- 5—**JONNIE STEWART**  
(11) 242, Pacific Palisades, CA
- 6—**TOMMY JAMMER**  
(14) 245, San Diego, CA
- 7—**SCOTT NORTON**  
(-) 360, Minneapolis, MN

- 8—**D.J. PETERSON**  
(8) 245, St. Joseph, MO
- 9—**COL. DeBEERS**  
(9) 248, Cape Town, S. Africa
- 10—**JOHN NORD**  
(7) 316, Bozeman, MT
- 11—**BUCK ZUMHOFF**  
(10) 222, Minneapolis, MN

- 12—**CURTIS HUGHES**  
(-) 308, Kansas City, KS
- 13—**NIKITA KOLOFF**  
(6) 275, Moscow, Russia
- 14—**MIKE GEORGE**  
(-) 265, St. Joseph, MO
- 15—**THE RUSSIAN BRUTE**  
(-) 285, Moscow, Russia

## MOST POPULAR

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**  
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2—**STING**  
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
- 3—**THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**  
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular

- 4—**LEX LUGER**  
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
- 5—**TUGBOAT**  
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
- 6—**DUSTY RHODES**  
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
- 7—**JAKE ROBERTS**  
Last month: No. 14 Most Popular

- 8—**KERRY VON ERICH**  
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
- 9—**JERRY LAWLER**  
Last month: unrated
- 10—**PAUL ORNDORFF**  
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular
- 11—**SCOTT STEINER**  
Last month: unrated

- 12—**TITO SANTANA**  
Last month: unrated
- 13—**RICK STEINER**  
Last month: unrated
- 14—**JUNKYARD DOG**  
Last month: No. 13 Most Popular
- 15—**RICK STEAMBOAT**  
Last month: unrated

## MOST HATED

- 1—**EARTHQUAKE**  
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
- 2—**RIC FLAIR**  
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
- 3—**CURT HENNIG**  
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated

- 4—**RICK RUDE**  
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
- 5—**ARN ANDERSON**  
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated
- 6—**BARRY WINDHAM**  
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
- 7—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**  
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated

- 8—**STEVE AUSTIN**  
Last month: No. 10 Most Hated
- 9—**DINO BRAVO**  
Last month: unrated
- 10—**JOHN TATUM**  
Last month: unrated
- 11—**EDDIE GILBERT**  
Last month: unrated

- 12—**TED DiBIASE**  
Last month: No. 11 Most Hated
- 13—**BAD NEWS BROWN**  
Last month: No. 12 Most Hated
- 14—**RANDY SAVAGE**  
Last month: No. 14 Most Hated
- 15—**SID VICIOUS**  
Last month: unrated

## TAG TEAMS

- 1—**DOOM**  
(1) NWA World tag team champions
- 2—**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**  
(2) No. 1 contenders: NWA tag title
- 3—**DEMOLITION (SMASH, CRUSH, AX)**  
(3) WWF World tag team champions
- 4—**THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**  
(4) U.S. tag team champions
- 5—**RICK & SCOTT STEINER**  
(6) No. 2 contenders: NWA tag title

- 6—**THE HART FOUNDATION**  
(5) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag title
- 7—**THE ROCKERS**  
(7) No. 2 contenders: WWF tag title
- 8—**TRACEY SMOTHERS & STEVE ARMSTRONG**  
(8) No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag title
- 9—**MIKE ENOS & WAYNE BLOOM**  
(15) AWA World tag team champions
- 10—**JOEY MAGGS & REX KING**  
(-) USWA tag team champions

- 11—**THE BUSHWHACKERS**  
(11) No. 4 contenders: WWF tag title
- 12—**THE LEGION OF DOOM**  
(13) No. 5 contenders: WWF tag title
- 13—**THE ORIENT EXPRESS**  
(12) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag title
- 14—**THE UNDERTAKERS**  
(14) ICW tag team champions
- 15—**THE NASTY BOYS**  
(-) NAWA tag team champions

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue ... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices ... Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended July 27, 1990

## ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

### ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Akira Taue & Shinichi Nakano)

### \* ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: TERRY GORDY

(July 17, 1990; from Stan Hansen; Ishikawa City, Japan)

### \* ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUMBO TSURUTA & KABUKI

(July 19, 1990; from Steve Williams & Terry Gordy; Takeo, Japan)

### ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI

(October 20, 1989; from Joe Malenko; Nagoya, Japan)

### \* ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: TERRY GORDY

(July 17, 1990; from Stan Hansen; Ishikawa City, Japan)

### ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSUKO NISHIWAKI

(January 1, 1990; elimination final over Bull Nakano; Tokyo, Japan)

### ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MINAMI TOYODA

(November 18, 1989; tournament final over Mika Takahashi; Tokyo, Japan)

### ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

AKIRA HOKUTO & SUZUKA MINAMI

(February 7, 1990; from Grizzly Iwamoto & Aja Kong; Osaka, Japan)

### AWA WORLD CHAMPION: LARRY ZBYSZKO

(April 8, 1990; from Mr. Saito; St. Paul, MN)

### AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE DESTRUCTION CREW

(October 1, 1989; tournament final over Greg Gagne & Paul Diamond; Rochester, MN)

### AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: CANDI DEVINE

(December 6, 1989; tournament match over Judy Martin; Toronto, Ontario)

### GEORGIA ALL-STAR CHAMPION: NICK BUSICK

(May 17, 1990; tournament final over Mike Golden; Lawrenceville, GA)

### \* ICW CHAMPION: VIC STEAMBOAT

(July 24, 1990; from Tony Atlas; Middletown, NY)

### ICW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE UNDERTAKERS

(March 31, 1990; tournament final over Phil Apollo & Eric Sbraccia; Charlton, MA)

### IWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MADUSA MICELI

(September 14, 1989; tournament final over Beastie; Kumamoto, Japan)

### IWGP CHAMPION: BIG VAN VADER

(August 10, 1989; from Riki Choshu; Tokyo, Japan)

### IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

THE GREAT MUTA & MASA CHONO

(April 27, 1990; from Mr. Saito & Shinya Hashimoto; Tokyo Bay, Japan)

### IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: THUNDER RIGER

(January 31, 1990; from Naoki Sano; Osaka, Japan)

### LPWA CHAMPION: SUSAN SEXTON

(by LPWA officials' decision)

### LPWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MISTY BLUE SIMMES & HEIDI LEE

MORGAN

(March 13, 1990; tournament final over Bad Girl & Black Venus; Laughlin, NV)

### NWA TV CHAMPION: ARN ANDERSON

(January 2, 1990; from The Great Muta; Gainesville, GA)

### \* NWA WORLD CHAMPION: STING

(July 7, 1990; from Ric Flair; Baltimore, MD)

### NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DOOM

(May 19, 1990; from Rick & Scott Steiner; Washington, DC)

### PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: SCOTTY THE BODY

(June 2, 1990; victory over The Grappler for vacant title; Portland, OR)

### \* PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(Most recently held by Beetlejuice & Big Juice)

### PACIFIC NORTHWEST TV CHAMPION: SCOTTY THE BODY

(March 17, 1990; from Ricky Santana; Portland, OR)

### \* PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: TERRY GORDY

(July 17, 1990; from Stan Hansen; Ishikawa City, Japan)

### \* PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

JUMBO TSURUTA & KABUKI

(July 19, 1990; from Steve Williams & Terry Gordy; Takeo, Japan)

### PWF (FLORIDA) CHAMPION: STEVE KEIRN

(July 9, 1989; from Kendall Windham; Orlando, FL)

### PWF (FLORIDA) TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MIKE GRAHAM & JOE GOMEZ

(May 8, 1990; from Robert Fuller & Kendall Windham; Tampa, FL)

### PWF (FLORIDA) LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: LOU PEREZ

(May 29, 1990; from Jim Backlund; Tampa, FL)

### U.S. CHAMPION: LEX LUGER

(May 22, 1989; from Michael Hayes; Bluefield, WV)

### U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS

(May 19, 1990; from Brian Pillman & Tom Zenk; Washington, DC)

### USWA CHAMPION: THE SNOWMAN

(June 18, 1990; from Jerry Lawler; Memphis, TN)

### \* USWA SOUTHWESTERN CHAMPION: JOHN TATUM

(July 4, 1990; from Bill Dundee; Dallas, TX)

### USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: REX KING & JOEY MAGGS

(June 23, 1990; from Tony Anthony & Tom Burton; Memphis, TN)

### \* USWA TEXAS CHAMPION: ANGEL OF DEATH

(July 13, 1990; by forfeit from Kerry Von Erich; Dallas, TX)

### \* WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: INVADER I

(July 7, 1990; from Leo Burke; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

### WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: HURRICANE CASTILLO JR. & MIGUEL PEREZ JR.

(June 6, 1990; from Chicky Starr & Leo Burke; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

### WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: HURRICANE CASTILLO

(April 21, 1990; from Eddie Watts; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

### WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Manny Fernandez)

### WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SUPER MEDICS

(March 31, 1990; from The Mercenaries; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

### WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON

(March 31, 1990; from Abdullah the Butcher; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

### WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER

(July 28, 1987; from Monster Ripper; Trinidad, West Indies)

### WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: CURT HENNIG

(April 23, 1990; tournament final over Tito Santana; Austin, TX)

### WWF WORLD CHAMPION: THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

(April 1, 1990; from Hulk Hogan; Toronto, Ontario)

### WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DEMOLITION

(April 1, 1990; from Andre the Giant & Haku; Toronto, Ontario)

### WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ROCKIN' ROBIN

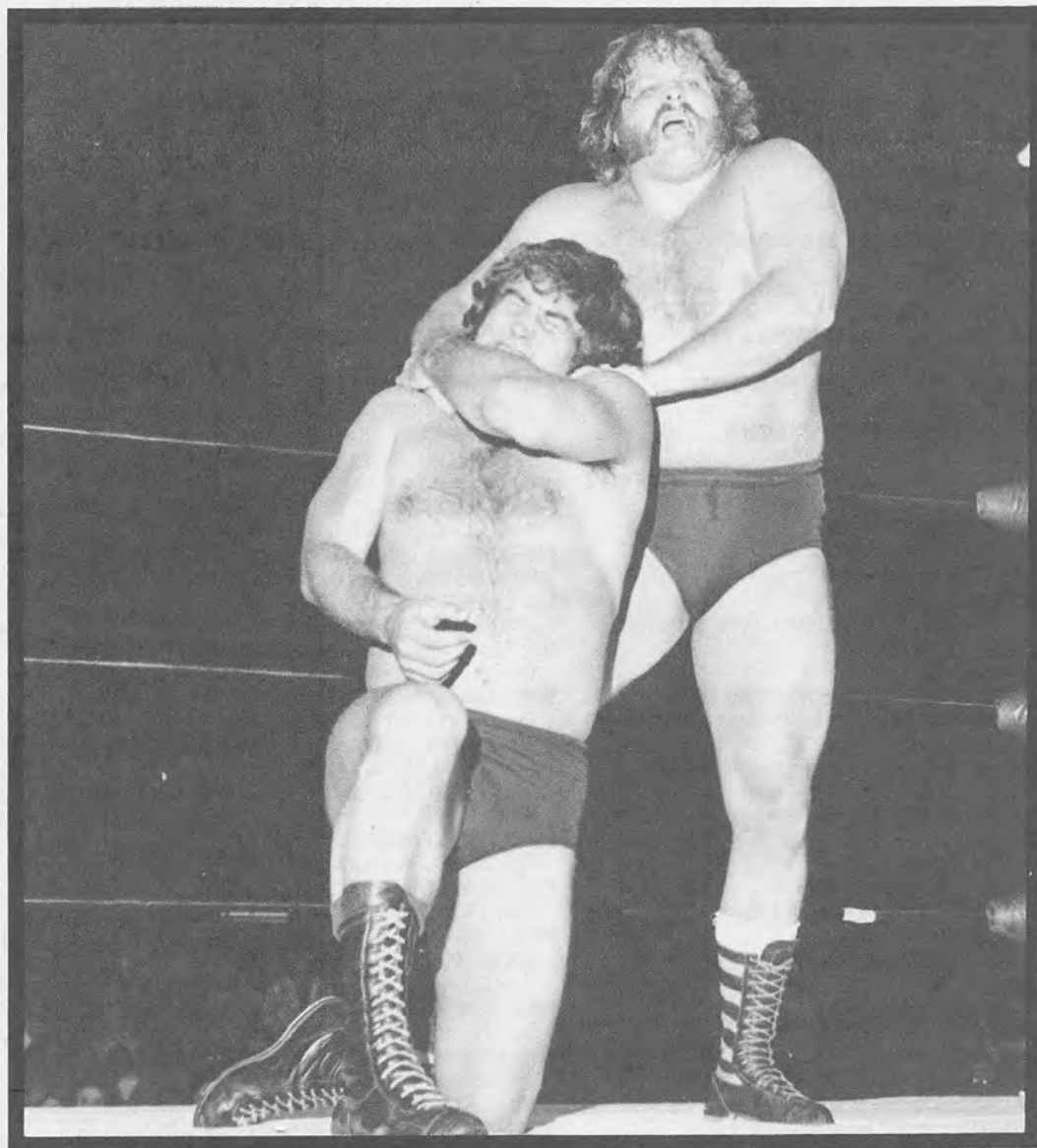
(October 7, 1988; from Sherri Martel; Paris, France)



# ***Blast From The Past***

## ***This Month In Wrestling History***

**“I’VE FOUND JACK BRISCO’S WEAKNESS!”**



### **OLE ANDERSON VS. JACK BRISCO**

#### **September 1973**

NWA World champion Jack Brisco was about two months into his first title reign when he ran into the challenge of Ole Anderson in Greensboro, North Carolina. Anderson had just returned to the United States following a tour of Japan, where he had learned several new nerveholds. “I’ve found Jack Brisco’s weakness,” Anderson boasted at the time. “He has very weak shoulder muscles!” And while Anderson was able to control Brisco during the match, as shown here, the champion managed to eke out a draw when the third and deciding fall was ended by the time limit.

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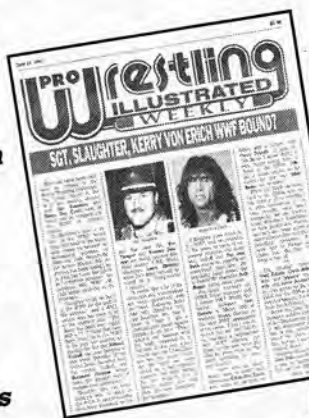
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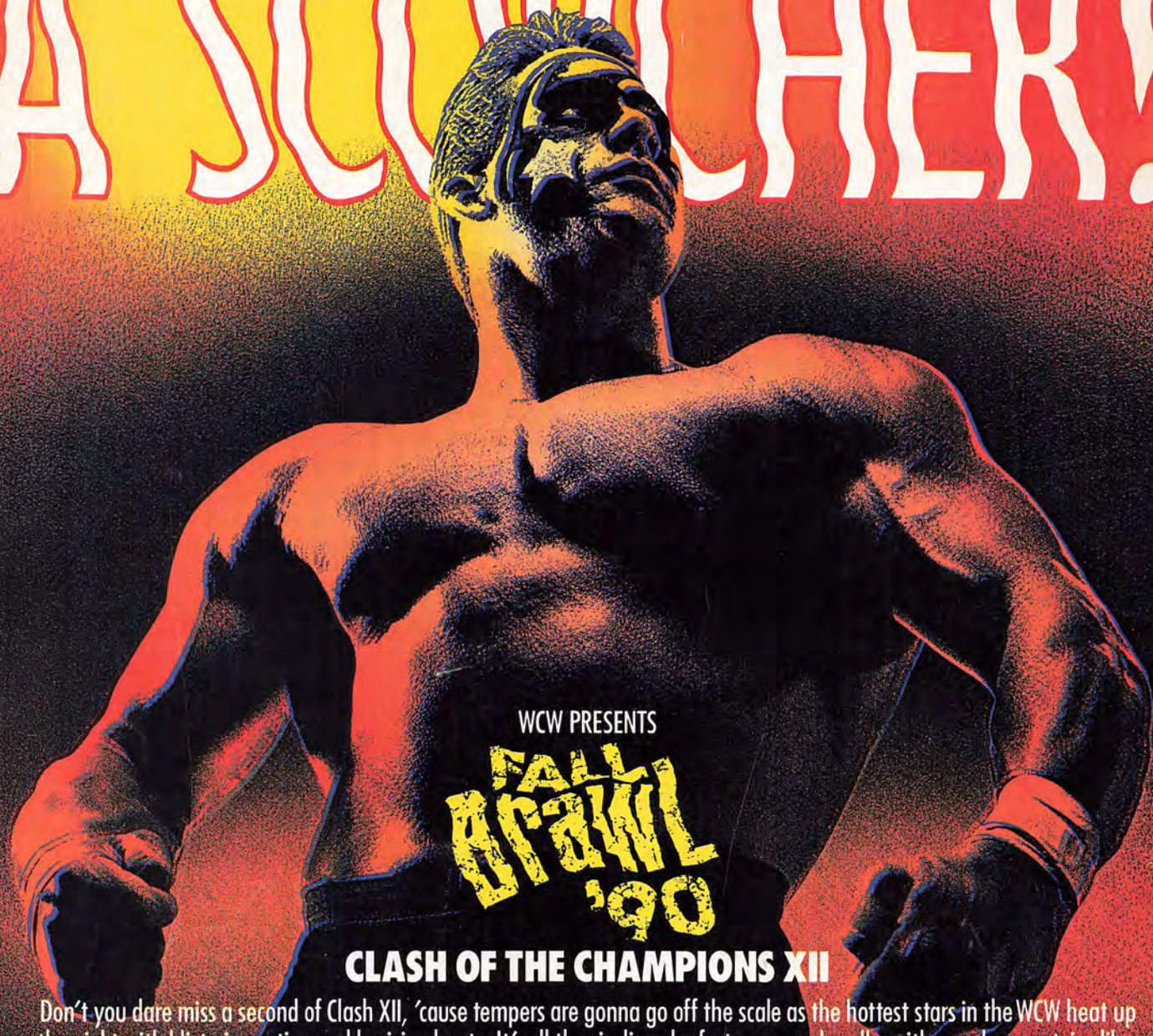
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